

SOCCER

WEEKLY

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MANFRED SCHAEFER

**THERE'LL
BE SOME
CHANGES
MADE:
OLYMPIC
COACH**

SYDNEY OLYMPIC coach Manfred Schaefer will make changes for Wednesday night's NSL Cup quarter-final match against Canberra City.

"I can't put up with that," Schaefer said after yesterday's 1-0 loss to Blacktown City.

"I would rather put in a young fellow who'll follow instructions," Schaefer added.

"However, we played a lot better than last week and Blacktown have better players than Canberra."

Schaefer expects Socceroo striker Marshall Soper, who appeared as a substitute against Blacktown, to be in the starting line-up on Wednesday night.

— BRAD EARL

O'CONNOR BIDS FOR CUP SPOT

PHIL O'CONNOR is ready to force his way back into Socceroo contention following a less-than-successful overseas tour last year.

"I think I've got a lot to offer," the Blacktown City attacker said.

O'Connor, 32, is aiming for a spot in Australia's squad for the World Cup campaign which starts in

September.

He had a disappointing tour with the Australian squad last November/De-

cember, but says he was still feeling the effects of a knee injury which kept him out for several months last year.

"I'm over it now. I've had a break and I've built the knee up again in the pre-season," he said.

that's my game," O'Connor said.

Things don't look so bright, however, for another Blacktown City player — left-back Tony Rasmussen.

Rasmussen went off injured after only 18 minutes of yesterday's 1-0 victory over Sydney Olympic.

The 24-year-old defender injured the lateral ligament of his right knee but he won't know the full extent of the injury until today.

It was a tragic blow for Rasmussen, who only made his comeback from a badly damaged left knee injury this season.

TO RUSSIA WITH KOCZKA

ANDREW KOCZKA, St George's giant defender-cum-striker, should be called into Jimmy Shoulder's Australian World Youth Championship squad for the Finals in Russia next August.

Koczka broke St George's goal drought by scoring two fine goals against the visiting Newcastle Rosebud yesterday.

The teenager's main asset is his strength and height, which Australia's Youth team could capitalise on up-front.

Shoulder took Koczka to Singapore last year with the Under 23 team, but made his feelings clear that he does not like "target men", preferring to play with three fast front-runners.

Australia's Youth coach could easily fit Koczka into the Australian attack line by playing him

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

through the middle with Lou Hristodoulou playing off him.

That would leave the block-busting winger, Chris Kalantzis, wide on the left to supply his bullet-like crosses.

Koczka, 19, already has had two years' NSL experience which would stand him in good stead against the world's best Youth opponents.

Earning his living from the florist trade, Koczka could blossom into Australia's secret weapon, winning aerial battles up-front.

With strength and height, Koczka would be a thorn to any defence, creating gaps for the smaller Hristodoulou and a battering ram for Australia.

TURN TO PAGE 12 FOR ASW'S PROFILE ON ANDREW KOCZKA.

BY BRAD EARL

"In fact I've never felt better. I'm happy with my form and I'm pleased with the way things are going.

"If I play as well as I can for Blacktown, then hopefully I will get a call into the squad for the international series."

The skilful left footer, who starred for Australia in the three-test series against England in 1983, is pleased to be playing a lot wider with Blacktown this year.

"I'm a winger —



PHIL O'CONNOR



TONY RASMUSSEN

All the NSL action — Northern Division

RESULTS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (M. Kovacic, Arnold) SYDNEY CITY 0 at King Tomislav Park. Crowd: 8,702.
ST GEORGE 3 (Koczka 2, Cotton) NEWCASTLE 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1,136.
APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (Caban) PENRITH CITY 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd: 2,057.
BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Wheatley) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 4,550.

CANBERRA 1 (Byrne) MARCONI (Lowe) at Manuka Oval. Crowd: 1,509.

WOLLONGONG 4 (Hristovski, Kotamanidis, Giannone, Brodnik) INTER MONARO 2 (Thamnidis, Dragicevic) at Wollongong Showground. Crowd: 750.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	4	3	0	1	12	25	6
Canberra City	4	2	2	0	7	3	6
Apia Leichhardt	4	3	0	1	8	6	6
Blacktown City	4	3	0	1	4	3	6
Sydney Croatia	4	2	1	1	8	6	5
Marconi	4	1	3	0	7	6	5
Sydney Olympic	4	2	0	2	2	2	4
Wollongong City	4	2	0	2	10	12	4
St George	4	1	1	2	3	2	3
Penrith City	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Newcastle	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Inter Monaro	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Maxwell) GREEN GULLY (Smallman) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 1,023.

BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Cairney) PRESTON (Spink, Smith) at Richlands Stadium. Crowd: 1,057.

HEIDELBERG 2 (Patterson, Stevenson) BRISBANE CITY 0 at Olympic Village. Crowd: 1,019.

FOOTSCRAY 0 MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Ward, Cumming) at Schintler Reserve. Crowd: 2,514.

SUNSHINE 1 (Latif) WEST ADELAIDE 0 at Chaplin Reserve. Crowd: 1,203.

BRUNSWICK 2 (Incantalupo, Zinni) SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Egan) at Olympic Park. Crowd: 6,121.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg	4	3	1	0	8	1	7
South Melbourne	4	3	1	0	9	5	7
Melb Croatia	4	3	0	1	8	2	6
Preston	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Sunshine	4	2	1	1	2	2	5
West Adelaide	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Brisbane Lions	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Brunswick	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Green Gully	4	1	1	2	5	5	3
Adelaide City	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
Brisbane City	4	0	1	3	1	6	1
Footscray	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

GOALSCORERS

8 — EGAN (Sth Melb)
4 — JANKOVICS (Marconi)
4 — ARNOLD (Syd Croatia)

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

MARCONI V AIS deferred.

WOLLONGONG CITY 2 (Welbourne, Rogers) INTER MONARO 0.

SYDNEY CROATIA 0 SYDNEY CITY 0.

APIA LEICHHARDT 0 PENRITH 0.

BLACKTOWN CITY 0 OLYMPIC 0.

ST GEORGE 1 (Watson) NEWCASTLE 2 (Fawkes, Stewart).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra City	4	3	1	0	10	6	7
Sydney City	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Newcastle	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Blacktown City	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
St George	4	2	1	1	8	6	5
AIS	3	1	2	0	5	4	4
Sydney Olympic	5	1	3	1	5	6	4
Wollongong City	4	2	0	2	6	8	4
Apia Leichhardt	4	1	2	1	5	5	3
Marconi	4	0	3	1	8	9	3
Inter Monaro	5	1	1	3	7	12	3
Sydney Croatia	4	0	2	2	6	10	2
Penrith City	5	0	1	4	5	10	1

THOMSON WASN'T

HAPPY

SYDNEY CROATIA did it all out on the park before a magnificent 8,702 crowd that enjoyed every minute of the victory but Sydney City coach Eddie Thomson did not get any joy out of his opponents' 2-0 win.

Said the unhappy Thomson: "They were into John Kosmina's back all day. Jim Patikas was running and diving.

"I blame the referee for what they got away with and not their players.

"I don't like the European stuff where they keep pushing the ball back to the goalkeeper and every free-kick takes a minute to set up.

"The whole game would have been a stalemate if we had done that sort of thing. It would have been a nothing game."

Thomson by implication admitted however that his midfield had failed to function properly. He said that Frank Farina and Grant Lee did not receive a ball up the wings until after half-time.

Croatia's Vedran Rozic was happy over his counter-attacking although the goals did not so much come from that direction.

In the 59th minute Zeljko Jurin took what looked an ineffectual short corner. Whether it was planned or not Marijan Kovacic was on the spot to drop the ball on his left foot and smash it into the net.

The other goal was a speculative shot from 25 metres out from Graham Arnold. Tony Pezzano got his hands to the ball but, possibly unsighted, he helped it into the net.

Jim Patikas certainly received special attention. He was hit from pillar to post throughout and both Alex Robertson and Steve O'Connor received yellow cards for fouls on him.

Croatia's mastercard was Bruno Vidaic, tightly marking John Kosmina, with the old master Vedran Rozic sweeping up behind Vidaic.

The first half produced some great

BY KEITH GILMOUR

football. In the 19th minute the Slickers were almost home

but Tom Basic managed a clearance off the line.

Towards the end of the half Patikas and Arnold both went close

The second half started a little scratchily but then Croatia got their goal and Sydney City were up against it in their attempt to make up lost ground.

The problem occurred in midfield. Joe Watson fell back considerably after a good start and Paul Kay surely must still be affected by his pulled hamstring as at no stage did he look the part.

Man of the match: VEDRAN ROZIC for a flawless showing, closely followed by the hardworking Patikas.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse, M. Kovacic, Basic, Rezo (Tomasic 45), Rozic, Vidaic, Jurin, Savor, Arnold, Patikas (A. Kovacic 90), Odzakovic.

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano, Cant, Robertson, O'Connor, Gomez, Kay, Watson, Barnes, Farina, Kosmina, Lee.

REFEREE: R. Lorenc.

CROWD: 8,702.

Sydney Croatia2

Sydney City.....0

MARK'S 'GOALS' DIDN'T COUNT!

Canberra.....1

Marconi.....1

TWO disallowed goals by Mark Jankovics and a doubtful penalty to Marconi highlighted a first half at Manuka Oval in which Marconi looked vastly superior to Canberra.

After an hour Canberra coach Roy Thomson brought on 18-year-old striker Manis Lamond and the game was totally transformed.

Ian Gibson, who had replaced Marko Perinovic at half-time, began to feed the speedy Lamond and the home team always beaten to the ball in the first hour applied relentless pressure to Marconi.

The equaliser came after 74 minutes when a Terry Byrne header from a Steve Bryant free-kick nearly tore the roof out of the net.

Both Tom English and Lamond shaved the crossbar with late second half volleys. The grandstand finish had the crowd of 1,540 roaring.

The unlucky and far from well Jankovics lasted only 42 minutes but only those two narrow offside decisions cost him a brace of goals. The first was only 10 seconds after the kick-off and the second in the 36th minute.

His replacement, big Geoff Gunning, had a very strong game but Marconi's stars were attacking midfielders Ian Gray, Craig Mason and Peter Tredinnick.

They won every challenge in the first hour and combined well with David Lowe.

He looks to be running back into form and consistently beat Canberra for pace with well struck balls to the flanks.

BY KEN HEALEY

Canberra's resurrection can be attributed to the switch of Byrne to sweeper in place of Peter Burke and to the rejuvenated forward-line of English, Lamond and Gibson.

The disputed penalty was the only blemish in a fine game by referee Bob Marshall who was sensibly sparing in his use of the yellow card.

Canberra's star keeper Anthony Franken saved a shot from Lowe in the 40th minute. The ball travelling away from the goal hit defender Paul Ontong on the arm.

Lowe converted from the spot.

If the deadlock was to be broken in the final quarter of an hour it had to be Canberra to do it but Marconi defended with pluck and luck thoroughly deserving the draw after an opening hour that featured the classiest teamwork seen in Canberra for a long time.

Man of the match: Marconi's midfielder PETER TREDINNICK who narrowly shaded Lowe, Mason and Franken.

CANBERRA: Franken, Ontong, Jones, Burke (Lamond 62), Harkins, Mihailidis, Byrne, Sermanni, Perinovic (Gibson 45), Bryant, English.

MARCONI: McPherson, Carter, Sterrey, Henderson, Calderan, Mason, Gray, Tredinnick (Reid 83), Lowe, Driene, Jankovics (Gunning 42).

REFEREE: B. Marshall.

CROWD: 1,540.

BRENNAN JOINS THE STRIKING STRIKERS

Wollongong4 Inter Monaro2

BY KEN HEALEY

IN a lively game of contrasting halves, Wollongong defeated Inter Monaro because they converted their temporary advantages into goals in the 10 minutes that followed half time.

Monaro lost Tony Brennan only hours before the match when he withdrew in sympathy with fellow strikers Baz Giampaolo and Walter Valeri, who are in dispute over terms.

Despite this setback, Monaro were resolute and controlled the whole first half.

Coach Josef Procop played a Soccerroo formation of three central defenders, with Ricky Budini dropping back to join Angelo Titilas and John Santolin. Budini had his best game since joining from Marconi.

But for the usual frustrations at the end of several probing runs by Chris Thamnidis, Monaro would have had a good lead.

Wollongong surprisingly took the lead from set play when neither the Monaro wall nor keeper Michael Hocking could keep a 25 metre free-kick from Zivko Hristovski out of the far corner of the net.

Some justice was restored one minute before the interval when Monaro finally broke the goal drought that had lasted for 314 minutes of NSL football.

It was the dynamic Thamnidis, so often the villain, with his final touch who scored the sort of goal he must dream about.

The little winger took off on a 40 metre run which ended only after he had dribbled the keeper and two defenders in the goalmouth.

Instead of inspiring the Monaro players the goal seemed to jade them. They were lethargic on the resumption and conceded two goals within 10 minutes.

Seven minutes of sustained second half pressure by Wollongong culminated in a nimble turn by Peter Kotamanidis, whose goal was spectacular.

Two minutes later Wollongong looked to have sealed the result with Dominic Giannone's far post header to the net.

But in the 70th minute Monaro's hopes of a point revived when Emil Dragicevic, who looked totally lost for most of the afternoon, converted a penalty.

Soon a frustrated John Walsh received a red card for a late tackle and then Wollongong finished the scoring.

Bernie Godzik took the ball from halfway having sprung the offside trap. Hocking did well to parry the ball which fell to substitute Pat Brodnik, whose aim was sure.

Man of the match: Wollongong's makeshift sweeper SCOTT DICKSON, who came forward like a true libero and was also safe in defence.

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff, Green, Condran, Willis, Dickson, Kerr, Godzik, Bundalo, Kotamanidis (Brodnik 77), Giannone.

MONARO: Hocking, Walsh, Gagetti, Santolin, Titilas, C. Ambrosino, Carbone, Budini, Thamnidis, Dragicevic, Willox.

REFEREE: G. Power.

CROWD: 837.



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All the NSL action — Northern Division

APIA SHOULD HAVE SCORED FIVE

BY TOM ANDERSON

Apia Leichhardt 1 Penrith0

THE scoreboard attendant at Lambert Park yesterday should have been made to work overtime, but instead ended up having an easy day basking in the sun.

The home town boys Apia Leichhardt ended up beating Penrith 1-0 in an outing where they should have rattled home at least five.

Willie Wallace's mountain men were let off the hook by some terrible Apia finishing when at times it looked easier to score than miss.

Yet, with the score at 1-0 there was once again a controversial decision — by referee Roger Doenau — that had Penrith coach Wallace screaming the house down.

It came when the mountain men scored a "goal" which was disallowed by the ref.

After the match Wallace claimed it was perfectly legal, and once again, as has happened since the start of the season, controversy rages.

The all-important goal of the game was scored by Kerry Caban in the 36th minute.

It came after intense Apia pressure that should have yielded goals.

Penrith sprang a surprise in the match when big stopper Dave McIntosh was used in the central striking position.

Although not nearly as effective as in a defensive role, the big lad gave 100 percent and at times gave the Apia defence some tense moments.

Apia were still without Soccerroo defender Arno Bertogna (sidelined with a strained groin) and new import Jim Hamilton, who had not recovered from his long air flight from Scotland in time to play.

The feature of the match was the outstanding form in midfield of Apia's recent buy from Marconi, Tommy McCulloch.

This game saw "Supermac" at his brilliant best and worth every cent Apia paid for him.

Another feature of the Apia play was the performance of big stopper Ian Rowden, who is improving in every outing.

Apia are a very promising team but if they are to win honours this season they

will have to tuck away their chances.

Man of the match: TOMMY McCULLOCH, the complete midfielder who looked every inch a champion. He called the shots and set the tempo in this match.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Catlin; Spina, Mariani, Rowden, Brown; McCulloch, Butler, De Ceglie; Colagiuri, Caban (Casacchia 83), Morsello (Genovese 70).
PENRITH: Gibson; Brogan, Ainsworth, Campbell, Toohey; Cross, Wether- spoon, Hebb (Hunter 50); Easthorpe, McIntosh, Licata.
REFEREE: R. Doenau.
CROWD: 2,500.

GOALS AT LAST FOR SAINTS

St George 3 Newcastle0

ST GEORGE, having gone so many games this year scoreless, welcomed the sight of the three goals they scored against a disappointing Newcastle Rosebud at St George Stadium.

Nobody was more relieved than Saints' manager Frank Arok, who stated: "Thank God for those goals. We were starting to believe that they were never going to come."

Arok, who is expecting to sign a new all-rounder tomorrow, engineered the breaking of the goal drought with a positional change.

Crack midfielder Johnny O'Shea was switched to left-back, releasing Andy Koczka into the attack.

This switch paid valuable dividends for St George as Koczka nailed two of the three goals.

But St George and Arok were most elated by the welcome return to form by flank striker Robbie Slater.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Slater supplied heaps of width and penetration for his side and was involved in lead-up work for two goals.

As early as in the 10th minute, Slater whipped in a cross from the right for Koczka to head in.

Five minutes before the break, St George got their second goal from a corner which centre-back Michael O'Shea nodded down for Roy Cotton to drive into the net from close-range.

Just three minutes after the break Koczka scored his second goal, again with a fine header, following a free-kick by full-back David Skeen.

Skeen floated his chip across into the box looking for striker Cotton, who flicked on to Koczka for his open chance.

Newcastle's midfield of McQuarrie, Senkalski and Kerby looked lethargic, but their side's downfall was their back-four of Maier, Boogaard, Owens and Jones, who failed to pick up tightly inside their box.

Vic Bozanic, Saints' newly-signed defender, was slotted in on the right side of midfield and, although short of a gallop, rocked Newcastle's left post with a thunderous 28 metre free-kick in the 63rd minute.

Dez Marton almost made it 4-0 for St George when he beat two defenders in the 86th minute before unleashing a scorching drive that was well blocked by Newcastle's goalkeeper Clint Gosling.

After the match a dejected Newcastle coach, Willie Gallagher, said: "We defended badly today and failed to pick up at the back."

"We miss Derek Todd who is always sniffing around in the box to hit home all the loose stuff."

Man of the match: ROBBIE SLATER for great penetration and rare constructiveness in being involved in two of the goals.

ST GEORGE: Greedy; Skeen, M. O'Shea, Ratcliffe, J. O'Shea; Bozanic (Petkovski 66), Stone, Barton; Slater, Cotton (Marton 72), Koczka.

NEWCASTLE: Gosling; Maier, Boogaard, Owens, M. Jones; McQuarrie, Senkalski, Kerby; D. Jones, Brandt, Milosevic (Stewart 61).

REFEREE: P. Rampley.
CROWD: 1,136.



"BIG MAC" Dave McIntosh, pushed into a central striking role for Penrith City, challenges Apia Leichhardt goalkeeper Bob Catlin at Lambert Park, with Apia defender Berti Mariani also in the action.

STERLING DEFENCE WINS FOR DEMONS

Blacktown1 Sydney Olympic ... 0

A STERLING performance in defence by Blacktown City laid the foundations for the Demons' 1-0 win over Sydney Olympic at the Gabbie Stadium yesterday.

Even though they lost Tony Rasmussen with a knee injury after only 18 minutes, the Blacktown backline held firm throughout.

Coach Casey de Bruin was proud of the fact that his defence hasn't conceded a goal in the last three matches.

Against Olympic Robbie Wheatley swept well on both sides of the pitch, Cliff Pointer was solid as a rock at centre-back and right-back Rod Skellern was very impressive, giving the much-vaunted Chris Kalantzis little opportunity to use his powerful left foot.

In fact Olympic only had one clear goal attempt in the entire match — when Nick Theodorakopoulos somehow missed putting the ball in from a metre out in the 36th minute.

Wheatley scored the only goal of the game right on half-time when he made a run up the field in true libero style.

He cut infield from the right for a 25 metre left foot shot which came back to him off a defender.

This time Wheatley passed to John Bradley on the edge of the area, who flicked the ball over the top for Wheatley to follow through and score with a fine shot.

That gave Blacktown a great psychological boost at the break, and even though Olympic came out with more fire in the second half, they never produced the football of which they are capable.

Midfielders Peter Raskopoulos and Peter Katholos failed to have much impact on the

BY BRAD EARL

game and at times Olympic captain Raskopoulos appeared to lose his cool.

Blacktown's midfield, in contrast, chased every ball and closed down their opponents very quickly.

The Demons were also creating more chances than Olympic. Early in the first half Alex Lampropoulos saved a goal when he cleared a Bradley shot off the line with Gary Meier stranded out of his goal.

In the second half Meier had to stop shots from Demons youngsters Martin Bourke and Brett Thornthwaite, and Phil O'Connor narrowly missed heading the ball in at the far post following a flick-on from replacement striker Alex Bottalico.

Bottalico injured his knee in his very first touch of the ball in his debut for Blacktown, but he added a deal of aerial strength up-front for the Demons: something they have lacked since Adam Sandy's return to England at the end of last season.

For Olympic, the one player who stood head and shoulders above the rest was Australian left-back Graham Jennings, who was on hand a number of times to rescue Olympic with good defensive work.

Man of the match: in only his second match back from injury, "the Warhorse" **CLIFF POINTER** was superb in the heart of the Blacktown defence.

BLACKTOWN: Hoare; Skellern, Rasmussen (Knight 18), Wheatley, Pointer; Bourke, Thornthwaite, Selvage; Bradley, Larkin (Bottalico 64), O'Connor.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier; Johnston, Jennings, Lampropoulos, Ziras; Phillips, Raskopoulos, Katholos; Patalis (Svinos 45), Theodorakopoulos (Soper 64), Kalantzis.

REFEREE: R. Davies.
CROWD: 4,550.



All the NSL action — Southern Division

CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE STUNS FANS

SOUTH MELBOURNE hit-man Charlie Egan stunned 5,000 supporters with brilliant goals that enabled his team to share the points in a 2-2 draw against Brunswick Juventus at Olympic Park.

Having developed a killer instinct in the championship so far, Charlie Egan has accumulated eight goals in four games.

South Melbourne got off to a dream start having gone into the lead after five minutes with a tremendous opportunist goal by Egan.

South Melbourne's lead, however, was very short-lived. Juventus relied heavily on breakaways exploiting fully Andrew Zinni's explosive speed and managed to besiege Laumets' goal repeatedly.

It was during one of the regular sieges of the South Melbourne goal that captain John Yzendoorn gave away a free-kick.

Brian Brown touched the ball to Fabio Incantalupo and the lethal executioner sliced the ball in the net to level the score.

Juventus graciously accepted a gift goal from the South Mel-

bourne defence in the 24th minute.

Zinni raced forward to connect with a long through ball by Peter Lewis.

South Melbourne's defence considered Zinni in an offside position and gave him the opportunity to hook the ball in the net from inside the area.

South Melbourne grabbed the equaliser in the 72nd minute when Brown put Egan through with a defence splitting pass and Egan placed the ball in the net for the second time.

South Melbourne broke loose after the equaliser stretching Banovic to the limit.

The former Derby County goalkeeper responded positively to challenges from Egan and Crino who denied South Melbourne the joy of a win.

After the game Juventus coach John Margaritis accused South Melbourne of

using rough tactics to control his players.

"Our dressing room resembles a casualty ward because a number of my players are badly injured," said Margaritis.

Man of the match: CHARLIE EGAN — he keeps getting goals.

BRUNSWICK: Banovic, Lewis, Brown, Campbell, Dowie, Wade, Petersen (Miranda 59), Incantalupo, Cullen, Sweeney, Zinni.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets, Russell, Postecoglou, Blair, Yzendoorn, Halford, McDowell, Crino, Murphy, Brown, Egan.

REFEREE: C. Bambridge.

CROWD: 5,000.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS continued their climb up the championship table with a narrow 1-0 win over West Adelaide at Chaplin Reserve.

A goal by Ossie Latif in the 21st minute gave Georgie a much-needed boost.

The game developed into a lacklustre affair with both defences figuring dominantly.

MELBOURNE ROUND-UP BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

Lack of creativity, adventure and determination prevented both sides engaging in entertaining soccer and their sporadic efforts were marred by excessive mistakes.

In fairness to the home team, however, it must be recorded that they created the better scoring opportunities throughout the game in spite of the effective offside trap used by West Adelaide defence.

West Adelaide's Chris Manou controlled the midfield and combined effectively with his experienced teammate Graham Honeyman, but Honeyman had to produce most of the moves forward West Adelaide made throughout the day.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Kastner, Campbell, Taylor, Bennett, Richardson, MacLaren, Faulkner, Bain, Mitten, Glider, Latif.

WEST ADELAIDE: Spruiell, Hiern, Genikas (Moutsoulis 50), Brown, Honeyman, Stamatiopoulos (Matiscaak 86), Manou, Atsalis, McGregor, Konstantopoulos, Panagis.

REFEREE: J. Fearn.

CROWD: 2,000.

MELBOURNE CROATIA greeted new coach Dom Kapetanovic with a 2-0 win over Footscray at Schintler Reserve.

Kapetanovic's first appearance on Croatia's bench coincided with the return to the Footscray team of one of its most famous players, Jim Kondarios, who came out of retirement to make his first appearance after two years.

His return could not save Footscray from yet another defeat, this time at the hands of the intruding Croatian side.

Footscray conceded the first goal two minutes before half-time when Gary Ward pounced onto a clearance and drove the ball past Boland to give his side the lead at the break.

Former caretaker-coach Tommy Cumming doubled the score in the 85th minute with a header.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland, Spojcevaski, Karic, Kondarios (Vagias 45), Kyriakoulas, O'Donnell (Carroll 61), Tacevski, Tabai, Lazopoulos, Stojovic, Lujic.

CROATIA: Runje, Curcio (Hristalido 65), Barton, Hannah, Antolovic, Deankovic, Biskic, Gojevic, House, Ward, Cumming (Juric 86).

REFEREE: S. Mellings.

CROWD: 2,509.

HEIDELBERG went to the top of the Southern Division with a hard-fought 2-0 win over Brisbane City at Olympic Village.

Somewhat hampered by the absence of central defender Charlie Yankos, the Bergers struggled to find rhythm.

The home team finally gained its composure however and began applying pressure.

The breakthrough came in the 65th minute when Scott Patterson converted a penalty

awarded to his side after Hamilton had controlled the ball with his hand inside the area.

Stuart Stevenson secured the points in the 76th minute when he headed the ball home to give Heidelberg a 2-0 win.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver, McKie, Marley, Angele, Gabrielson, Valentine, Selemidis, Tasios, Stevenson, Patterson, Winn.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart, Fabrizio, Bromfield, Wilkinson, Milovanovic, Junna, Salco (Hodgson 75), Mengotti, Scriggins, Hamilton, Reis (Glockner 64).

REFEREE: D. Voutsinas.

CROWD: 1,503.

SMITH HEADS THE WINNER

Brisbane Lions 1 Preston 2

BETTER finishing which culminated in a last minute goal earned Preston two points against Brisbane Lions at Richlands.

BY GREG RUSSELL

sponsible for the goal.

Both Steve Jackson and Rod Vasquez failed to properly clear the ball before the speedy Spink latched on to the gift offering and raced away to slot his shot under Wayne Evans.

It was the third defensive error in two games that has cost Lions a goal.

The match, in which referee Gordon Nicholson handed cautions to Preston's Con Opasinis and Sean Lane, looked destined for a draw — a result which would have pleased Lions — but Preston were rewarded for playing right to the whistle.

Man of the match: Preston midfielder GORDON FLAVELL, who stood out for interrupting the midfield dominance of the Stewart brothers.

LIONS: Evans, Jackson, Hunter, Vasquez, Niven, R. Stewart, J. Stewart, Ogden, McDonagh, Cairney, McGregor (Anderson 77).

PRESTON: Trainedes, Opasinis, McMillan, Iloski (Heys 63), Dobson, Dunn, Cole, Flavell, Lane, Smith, Spink.

REFEREE: G. Nicholson.

CROWD: 617.

HOT STUFF AT HINDMARSH!

Adelaide City 1 Green Gully 1

ADELAIDE CITY and Green Gully slogged their way through 35 degree heat for a 1-1 draw at Hindmarsh Stadium, where both goals came from penalties.

Not that there were not enough other chances to win the game, particularly for City in the first half.

But the credit must go to Gully for a vital point away from home with left winger Jim Williams close to being man of the match for some great moves despite the fact that he was carrying an injury.

City thought they had it all wrapped up when midfielder Steve Maxwell was fouled in the box by Willie Vassallo, and cracked home the penalty-kick in the 75th minute.

But six minutes later referee Mike Browning blew up City goalkeeper Willie McNally for allegedly pulling down Paul Lewis, who had beaten Buggy Nyskohus.

David Smallman stepped up and slotted the ball to the left of McNally who dived to his right, and the point was secure.

Smallman, another player who coach Bobby McLachlan said was carrying an injury, then had to leave the field.

For City, forward Peter Rankin had come into the game carrying a flu virus and midfielder Brian Northcote was missing with a shoulder injury.

BY TOM MCKAIN

City were also still without NSL Player of the Year, midfielder Sergio Melta.

Centre-back Jim Murray was another of Gully's "walking wounded" but finished as the best man on the park.

City flattered to deceive with some one-touch soccer which had the fans in ecstasy but which got them nowhere.

At the other end of the field Lewis was kept quiet, until that late charge, by Neville Flounders, and the home side finished still waiting for a first win after four games which have produced only two points.

Man of the match: JIM MURRAY, Green Gully, for mopping up everything that came his way down the middle or to the right or left, on a day which defenders dominated.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally, Donnelly, Cere, Flounders, Nyskohus, Maxwell, Villani, Santrac, Mullen, Costanzo, Rankin.

GREEN GULLY: Denys, Vassallo, McLeland, Murray, Cannell, Smart, Lewis, Lucchesi, Lloyd, Smallman (McKenna 85), Williams.

REFEREE: M. Browning.

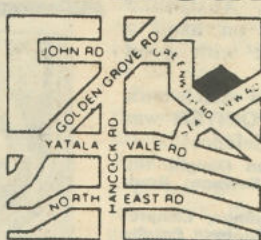
CROWD: 1,232.



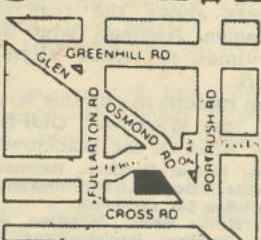
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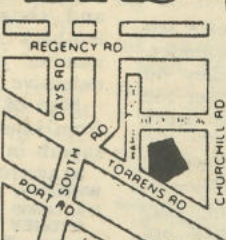
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KREFT ATTACKS SYDNEY 'SHARKS'

ADELAIDE CITY coach Edmund Kreft is hopping mad at the way Sydney City blocked Soccerroo David Mitchell's move to sign for the South Australian club.

Kreft described Sydney club officials as "sharks" when they decided to hold Mitchell to a clause in his contract which bound him to them if he returned from Scotland to Australia inside two years.

This meant him having to stay away until August 3, after quitting Rangers following a dispute with manager Jock Wallace.

Adelaide City have been desperate for a class striker, and someone who could pull in the crowds.

They saw Mitchell, whose family lives in Adelaide, as



DAVID MITCHELL

BY TOM MCKAIN

the answer and offered him a two-year contract which included a house.

"If we were in the same League as Sydney I could understand their motives," said Kreft.

"But we are no threat to them. They are sharks.

"They only buy success."

CLEARANCE

Mitchell went to Sydney from Adelaide for a \$35,000 transfer fee, then bought his own clearance for \$20,000 to go to Rangers.

Sydney City chairman Sam Fisman said there had been a lot of flack when Mitchell was released for the \$20,000, and the club was determined he should not be free if he returned to Australia before August 3.

Adelaide tried to reach a compromise with Sydney City but failed.

Had Mitchell come to Australia he would have been Sydney's player again and they

would have been able to put a huge fee on his head.

The big striker is now in Hong Kong playing for Seiko, who have agreed to release him for all Soccerroo matches, including any warm-up games for the World Cup campaign.

Kreft said Sydney City's attitude was all against the development of the game here.

"We are trying to sign someone who can help boost the gates, and also help Australia in the World Cup," he said.

"But now we don't have the player and he will have to go straight into the Soccerroo squad from a different environment.

"I just can't understand why Sydney City took the stance they did. It is not good for the game."

WRATH

Sydney City have also earned the wrath of West Adelaide coach Neil McGachey, who is awaiting an arrival date for English veteran superstar Frank Worthington.

Slickers stance 'not good for the game'

"Sydney City phoned Worthington and asked him if he was interested in playing for them," said McGachey.

"Fortunately for us Frank stuck to his word and said he was committed to us."

West is waiting for a departure date from Worthington's club, Brighton, in England's Second Division.

Once it is clear they cannot be promoted nor relegated, he will be free to fly to Australia.



FRANK WORTHINGTON (left) in action in Australia last season against Gentile of Juventus.

PIMBLETT NO CERTAINTY FOR STATE SELECTION

BY GREG RUSSELL

BRISBANE CITY midfielder Frank Pimblett is no certainty to be picked in the Queensland squad to play New South Wales on Anzac Day, despite settling differences with his club and resuming training last week.

Queensland coach Bruce Stowell will pick his 16-man maroon squad this week, but faces a difficult decision whether to include his 1984 team captain, who has not played since October last year.

Pimblett began training at Spencer Park last week, after being in dispute with Brisbane City since the beginning of the year.

The 28-year-old former Aston Villa player claimed the City board had not done enough to strengthen the club's 1984 side and refused to train. The board then slapped a two-match suspension on their former captain for his outspoken attitude.

But the matter has been settled after long talks between

Pimblett and City president John Ciavarella last week.

But despite resuming training, Pimblett has stressed his return is not a firm commitment.

"I'll just wait to see how things go. I should know pretty quickly whether the urge is there to play for the season, but at the moment I feel pretty keen," Pimblett said.

Pimblett is known to be eager to tour Fiji with Queensland in May and, even if he misses out on the interstate squad, Stowell could still draft the skilful midfielder into the touring party.

"The door is always open for me to change the squad and add or delete who I like," Stowell said.

NEWCASTLE'S HECTIC DRAW

BY NEIL JAMESON

QUARTER-FINAL NSL Cup action will hold the midweek focus this week, but Cup-holders Newcastle will be watching from the sidelines.

The Rosebuds are not scheduled to play their quarter-final against Brisbane Lions until April 10, while the other three matches will be played on Wednesday this week.

To retain the trophy Newcastle must survive a hectic fortnight of soccer starting with the quarter-final on April 10, continuing on to the away game against Blacktown on April 14, followed by the Cup semi-final on April 17, the home League fixture against Leichhardt on April 20 and the Cup Final on April 25; a tall order for semi-professionals.

Newcastle are naturally concerned about the tight itinerary but there might be some benefit to be gained



DEREK TODD

from playing the quarter-final seven days later than originally scheduled.

The Rosebuds will be keen to get as many matches in as possible for ace striker Derek Todd, who has just returned to the squad.

Todd's ability to hold the ball has been sorely missed and his extra bit of skill should add much needed balance to an over-taxed forward-line.

While Newcastle's build-ups have been impressive this season, there has been nobody up-front to hold the ball long enough for support to arrive.

WEIGHT

Explosive striker Simon Brandt past a comment to this effect a fortnight ago when Rosebud went down 2-1 to a well-organised and skilful Sydney Croatia.

If Todd can help Newcastle play the sort of possession football coach Willie Gallagher needs, the forwards will take some of the weight off the over-worked midfield and defence with the result that Newcastle might start picking up winning points instead of being noble losers.

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IMPORTS BACK IN THE NEWS

PRESIDENT of the Australian Soccer Federation, Sir Arthur George, said at the dinner held in honour of FIFA president Dr Joao Havelange that he has one aim before he retires from his position.

He wants the quota of visa players that clubs are allowed reduced from three to none.

The importation of overseas players has always been a contentious issue in Australian soccer, yet few people would doubt the influence quality imports have on the game.

Who would have thought Dez Marton, from a second division Yugoslavian club, would have been such a crowd-pleaser with St George?

Even though he was in the twilight of his career, Marton's goalscoring ability helped Saints to the National League title in 1983.

This year Marton, approaching 37 and clearly not in peak condition, can still outshine 19 other field players when it comes to skills.

And has any club signed a more loyal player than Joe Watson, who has been with Sydney City for more than 10 years and is now one of national coach Frank Arok's key players in Australia's World Cup campaign?

There are many arguments for and against the importation of overseas players by National League clubs.

Certainly there are many players who are no better than local players who are kept out of a club's first team.

Yet quality players should always be welcome if they can improve the standard of the League. Unfortunately no-one, not even the wisest and most knowledgeable coaches, can judge whether an import will be a success or failure until he is actually in Australia.

Several leading NSL coaches came to Australia as players, and men like Eddie Thomson, Willie Wallace, Adrian Alston and Les Scheinflug are making a major contribution in the coaching field. It is very doubtful if these men would be coaching in Australia now if they hadn't played here.

One final thought: if Sir Arthur George's stated desire is to rid all imports from our soccer, then surely he would have to make imports ineligible to play for the Australian national team.

We can't see that happening with World Cup qualification at stake.



CHIT CHAT



VINCE COLAGIURI on the ball.

APIA LEICHHARDT winger **VINCE COLAGIURI** believes that a combination of bad luck and injuries cost him the chance of success at St George after working his way through from Under 8 juniors in the district. He has certainly not put a foot wrong and has been well amongst the goals since arriving at Leicthardt.

Vince is a trainee schoolteacher at St George Teachers College and is specialising in physical education.

It seems former Soccerroo goalkeeper **MARTYN CROOK** can't keep off the injured list.

After badly bruising a finger when he missed a catch at cricket, the tip became infected, and he has had to have the nail removed.

It now looks like at least another week before he can challenge **GARY SPROUL** in an effort to win back his place.

SYDNEY soccer followers will get the chance to watch Australia's top Under 18 players in action next month.

This year, due to accommodation problems, the National Youth Championships could not be staged in Canberra as usual, so Sydney was chosen to host the titles.

The ultimate purpose of the series is to unearth players for the next World Youth Championship in 1987.

Venue for matches is expected to be the Parklea complex, although it would be a good idea if the final could be played at an NSL ground where seating is available.



ZARKO ODZAKOV is the best midfielder in Australia, according to his new teammate at Sydney Croatia, **JIM PATIKAS**.

"**JOHN KOSMINA** doesn't need to score to play well," Sydney City coach **EDDIE THOMSON** said after Sydney City's 5-2 win over Wollongong.

"Kossie" didn't get on the scoresheet against the Wolves, but Thomson said: "He led the forward-line magnificently, drawing defenders with his unselfish running and creating openings for his team-mates to get into and score."



BLACKTOWN CITY defender **PAUL DALEY** earned the Demons valuable publicity for their **KEVIN KEEGAN** venture.

Daley, a member of the 1983 Australian Youth squad, was introduced to the large crowd at Liverpool Speedway last week, and the announcers were keen to find out more about Keegan's visit to Australia.

BRISBANE LIONS went on a "spying mission" in Melbourne after their Saturday match against Green Gully.

Coach **GORDON ARROWSMITH** watched Preston, Lions' opponents yesterday, play a scoreless draw with Brunswick, while **ALAN HUNTER** and **CLARK ANDERSON** went to watch South Melbourne, who Lions play this week, down Footscray 3-1.

"It's always handy to have a look at your opponents and between the three of us we worked a few things out," Arrowsmith said.

"The way we approached it we collected information on four Melbourne teams in one hit," Arrowsmith said.



BLACKTOWN CITY have signed **ALEX BOTTALICO**, son of Apia Leicthardt coach **FIL**.

Transferred from Sydney City, Alex's strong build suits him to a central striking role, but he is also a more than useful midfielder.

His signing adds even greater pressure to the battle for first team places at Blacktown.

Experienced men like **GARY BYRNE** (coming back from injury), **STUART SELVAGE** and **RICKY HORMAZABAL** are competing for midfield places with youngsters **STEVE KNIGHT**, **BRETT THORNTHWAITE** and **MARTIN BOURKE**.

Coach **CASEY DE BRUIN** also has the option of dropping striker **JOHN BRADLEY** back to midfield.



RALE RASIC achieved just about all he could wish for as a soccer coach.

Now the man who took Australia to the 1974 World Cup Finals is with the AMP Insurance Company full-time and has found a new mountain to climb.

Rale has been presented with AMP's Gold Ribbon, an award for writing a large number of insurance policies — and one of those life policies was for a cool million dollars.

As Rasic said: "When I did something special in soccer coaching it was what was expected of me. But to achieve something like this in an entirely new career means a lot to me."

A GROUND inspection by Queensland Soccer Federation officials produced some startling results — the goalposts at seven grounds were not the regulation eight feet (2.43m), and the offending clubs have been told no fixtures would be played on the grounds until the posts were fixed.

But the more intriguing aspect is how long have the goals been the wrong height — and how many goals has it costs various teams?



WHEN **JIM PATIKAS** failed to make the Soccerroo touring squad last November, his omission surprised plenty of good judges.

Now Patikas has explained why he didn't go to China and Europe.

"Towards the end of the season, I had a persistent ankle injury but I kept playing on it for Sydney Olympic."

"Then, when I went for Soccerroo squad training, I simply wasn't fit enough," he explained.



ADELAIDE CITY hopes to sign a Hungarian striker now their deal with **DAVID MITCHELL** has fallen through.

The club has made an offer through a Hungarian agent and are now waiting for a reply from overseas.

No names as yet, but it is believed the striker will be on a free clearance as he has served the required term to qualify for a free move overseas.

City has again contacted former star **DIXIE DEANS** in the hope he can use his Scottish contacts to come up with a player as good as he was when he came to Australia back in 1977.



NEWS about the forthcoming international tournament in May-June keeps being leaked but isn't it about time the ASF provided some official information to the media?

And when the info is eventually released, will we be told which star players won't be coming?



FORMER Soccerroo KENNY BODEN has been transferred from Sydney Croatia to Perth Azzurri.

Boden, 34, left Sydney City a year ago but failed to make the impact expected of him at Croatia.

Azzurri have also signed another big star for their 1985 Western Australian State League campaign.

He is former Liverpool First Division defender **COLIN IRWIN**, signed from Swansea City.



PENRITH CITY coach **WILLIE WALLACE** called for "a lot more commitment" from his forwards following Penrith's 1-0 defeat at the hands of Blacktown City.

"When a full-back's allowed to do what he did, there's got to be something wrong," Wallace said after watching left-back **TONY RASMUSSEN** run forward to score the last-minute winner for the Demons.

It was the same story last year when Wallace was continually urging his attacking players to pick up their work-rate.



MARCONI's soccer committee has been disbanded. In future one man, **RON CAVAGNINO**, will be responsible for decision-making and he will be answerable to the board of the licensed club.

It's not somebody's attempt to create a dictatorship.

It simply means that Marconi have eliminated the need for a soccer committee to spend hours debating matters before such matters go to the board for a repetition of the debate.



DAVE McINTOSH (right) stretches out to tackle Sydney Olympic striker Mark Koussas.

PENRITH CITY will lose the services of stopper **DAVE McINTOSH** in five weeks time.

"Big Mac" is moving to Melbourne for employment reasons, and it shouldn't take Victorian NSL clubs long to bid for his services.

Despite a three-year spell away from National League football, 31-year-old McIntosh made an impressive return to the top division with Penrith last season.

FIFA has decided to cut down on media accreditations for the World Cup in Mexico next year.

The limit will be 5,000 and the majority of those places will go to the electronic media.

FIFA claims accreditation for Spain in 1982 and Argentina four years earlier were excessive.

May we suggest a stricter scrutiny of media applications?

WEST ADELAIDE now has two players who will delay "nose jobs" until after the season.

Defender **BRENTON HIERN** got his broken during the SA Ampol Cup minor rounds, then striker **GEORGE KONSTANDOPOULOS** collected his in the Wednesday Final against Adelaide City.

Konstandopoulos also suffered concussion, but insisted on playing on the Sunday against Brisbane Lions.

Both players say they can survive until the end of the season.

WATCH out for **MIKE GENIKAS**.

A midfielder, he got his first full game for West Adelaide in the 2-1 derby win over Adelaide City the other week.

Signed from State League club Birkalla, Genikas is a big strong player who now appears to have gained himself a permanent spot in the West line-up.



ALEX McPHERSON

YOU have to be very patient to be second choice goalkeeper in a National League team.

Some wait for years to get a chance with the big boys.

It'll be interesting to see how strongly **BRUCE JAMES** and **ALEX McPHERSON** challenge each other for the top job at Marconi.

McPherson was signed by Marconi in a hurry when James reported unfit for the Newcastle match.

"Every club needs two good goalkeepers," says Marconi boss **LES SCHEINFLUG**.

He is right... but it isn't easy keeping both happy.



BRISBANE LIONS players are sporting names on their new sports this season.

Club officials joke that they opted for the big lettering on the players back so **FRANK AROK** and the Australian Soccer Federation do not confuse the **STEWART** brothers, **RUSSELL** and **JOHN**, as they did last year.

But full-back **BOB McSKIMMING'S** name proved too much for screen printers. His name has been shortened to his nickname "Skim".



BURLY attacker or central defender **PETER JONES** has left Apia Leichhardt and is looking for another club.

He has recently been training at Blacktown.



GEOFF GUNNING, 17, is the latest youngster from the Marconi teenage academy to make first grade.

Geoff has had two games this year, two years after joining the club.

He plays midfield or up front and coach **LES SCHEINFLUG** says the boy, though obviously not ready yet, did "a marvelous job."



WHILE coaching from the bench is not allowed, West Adelaide boss **NEIL McGACHEY** manages very well from the grandstand.

He is perched at the back with a walkie-talkie radio and relays instructions to assistant **PETER KOULIZOS** on the bench.

The latter somehow manages to get McGachey's instructions to his players.



GERRY GOMEZ was not the best of English speakers when he joined Sydney City, but the big fellow from Costa Rica studied hour after hour to perfect his command of the language.

Slickers coach **EDDIE THOMSON** says: "Gerry now speaks better English than me."

We pass no comment... knowing Eddie's Scottish brogue!



PEOPLE who complain that players don't take their soccer seriously enough were given ammunition for their cause recently.

One player with a National League club took time off and could not play in an important match.

It wasn't a question of fitness or a death in the family or something like that.

No — the player wasn't available because he was best man at a wedding.

SPURS SLIP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR's bid for the First Division championship in England took a nasty tumble over the weekend.

Against an ordinary Aston Villa, Spurs were beaten on their own White Hart Lane ground 2-0, with goals from Paul Rideout and Mark Walters.

The Tottenham team took the field without several key players and their replacements were not good enough to win the three home points which were there for the taking.

Kevin Poole, the 21-year-old making his debut in the Villa goal, could not have asked for an easier goalkeeping assignment because Spurs hardly ever put him to the test.

While Tottenham were losing vital championship points, their rivals for the title, Everton, cruised to yet another victory.

The Merseysiders travelled to Southampton and came away with a 2-1 result which takes the title that bit closer to Goodison Park.

Kevin Richardson was the man who scored both Everton goals.

Everton are now clear top with 63 points and Spurs have 60. Third-placed Manchester United faced a Sunday match against Liverpool and before kick-off United had four points fewer than Spurs on 56 points.

It seems most unlikely that any other teams can now play a part in the struggle for top spot.

Arsenal, surprisingly beaten 2-0 by bottom team Stoke City, are four points adrift of Manchester United but the London side has played three more matches.

The battle to avoid relegation re-

mains fierce although Stoke are surely doomed, despite their good result against Arsenal.

Ipswich Town and Luton are the tip to go into Second Division with Stoke, although Luton improved their chances of avoiding the drop when they beat Ipswich 3-1 at Kenilworth Road.

Watford, Sunderland and Coventry City are the other teams in danger of going down.

Scotland turned on a bout of unseasonal weather to cause several cancellations of matches and this suited leaders of the Premier Division, Aberdeen, admirably.

Aberdeen beat Dundee United 4-2. Their nearest, and only, challengers for the championship, Celtic, had to postpone their traditional holocaust against Rangers due to the weather.

Also, the Edinburgh derby game between Hearts and Hibs had to be called off.

John Hewitt put Aberdeen 2-0 ahead against Dundee United before the interval but, soon after half-time, Eamonn Bannon made the score 2-1 with a penalty kick.

In one minute, Billy Stark and Steve Cowan had Aberdeen 4-1 in front before United salvaged one goal thanks to substitute John Reilly.

Although the pessimists predicted a difficult season for Aberdeen after the club sold three key players, they have been proved wrong.

Aberdeen are eight points clear of Celtic while Dundee United in third spot are 12 points behind the leaders.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE: Luton 3 Ipswich 1, Norwich 2 Coventry 1, Nottingham Forest 1, West Ham 2, Queens Park Rangers 2, Watford 0, Sheffield Wednesday 4, Newcastle 2, Southampton 1, Everton 2, Stoke 2, Arsenal 0, Sunderland 0, Chelsea 2, Tottenham 0, Aston Villa 2, West Bromwich 2, Leicester 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO: Birmingham 1, Wolverhampton 0, Blackburn 1, Notts County 0, Carlisle 2, Barnsley 0, Crystal Palace 1, Sheffield United 3, Fulham 0, Leeds 2, Huddersfield 2, Charlton 1, Manchester City 0, Cardiff 2, Oxford 0, Grimsby 0, Shrewsbury 0, Portsmouth 0, Wimbledon 1, Middlesbrough 1, Brighton 2, Oldham 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE: Bradford 1, Plymouth 0, Brentford 1, Derby 1, Bristol City 1, Doncaster 0, Cambridge 1, Hull 3, Newport 2, Lincoln 1, Orient 0, Reading 0, Swansea 4, Preston 1, Walsall 1, Bristol Rovers 2, Wigan 1, Bournemouth 2, Gillingham 1, Burnley 1, Millwall 0, Rotherham 0, York 0, Bolton 3.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	30	19	6	5	65	33	63
Tottenham	31	18	6	7	60	32	60
Man Utd	31	16	8	7	59	35	56
Arsenal	34	15	7	12	51	42	52
Liverpool	30	14	9	7	45	24	51
Sheff Wed	31	13	12	6	48	32	51
Sheff Wed	32	15	5	12	47	40	50
Notts Forest	32	14	8	10	42	40	50
Southampton	31	12	10	9	47	36	46
Chelsea	33	12	10	11	45	48	46
Aston Villa	32	12	6	14	53	54	42
Leicester	32	12	6	14	44	49	42
West Brom	30	11	8	11	38	43	41
Norwich	33	10	11	12	40	52	41
QPR	33	9	11	13	47	62	38
Newcastle	29	9	9	11	37	43	36
West Ham	31	8	10	13	53	59	34
Watford	31	9	7	15	35	43	34
Sunderland	31	10	4	17	35	51	34
Coventry	30	8	8	14	27	43	27
Luton	29	6	9	14	27	43	27
Ipswich	32	3	8	21	20	62	17
Stoke							

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	34	18	9	7	53	29	63
Oxford	31	18	7	6	62	25	61
Birmingham	33	18	6	9	43	29	60
Blackburn	33	17	8	8	55	36	59
Portsmouth	33	15	13	5	53	39	58
Leeds	34	15	9	10	55	37	54
Brighton	33	15	9	9	36	24	54
Fulham	33	15	6	12	56	54	51
Shrewsbury	33	13	10	10	57	48	49
Huddersfield	32	14	7	11	44	46	49
Grimsby	33	14	6	13	59	52	48
Barnsley	31	12	11	8	36	30	47
Wimbledon	32	12	6	14	59	65	42
Carlisle	34	12	6	16	44	52	42
Oldham	34	12	6	16	37	55	42
Sheff United	33	10	11	12	50	52	41
Charlton	33	10	8	15	42	48	38
Crystal Palace	31	7	10	14	35	52	31
Middlesbrough	34	7	9	18	34	49	30
Notts County	33	7	6	20	32	59	27
Wolves	34	6	8	20	31	62	26
Cardiff	33	6	7	20	38	68	25

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford	35	23	6	6	60	33	75
Hull	36	19	11	6	59	37	68
Millwall	34	19	9	6	53	30	66
Bristol City	35	19	6	10	58	38	63
Gillingham	34	18	7	9	58	47	61
Rotherham	37	16	10	11	51	43	58
Walsall	34	16	9	9	52	38	57
Bristol Rovers	34	16	8	10	49	39	56
Bournemouth	37	16	8	13	43	37	56
Reading	33	16	7	10	53	45	55
York	36	15	6	15	56	47	51
Derby	35	14	9	12	50	40	51
Doncaster	36	14	7	15	58	55	49
Newport	34	11	11	12	43	45	44
Plymouth	36	10	12	14	50	56	42
Brentford	35	11	9	15	47	55	42
Lincoln	34	10	11	13	41	38	41
Bolton	37	12	4	21	51	56	40
Wigan	34	9	12	13	37	46	39
Burnley	35	8	11	16	49	56	35
Orient	35	9	8	18	41	61	35
Preston	36	10	4	22	40	80	34
Swansea	36	7	8	21	40	70	29
Cambridge	34	3	7	21	31	74	16

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR: Aldershot 2, Stockport 1, Blackpool 4, Peterborough 2, Chester 0, Mansfield 3, Chesterfield 2, Wrexham 1, Exeter 3, Hartlepool 2, Halifax 0, Torquay 1, Northampton 1, Crewe 3, Bury 2, Rochdale 2, Colchester 2, Tranmere 1, Darlington 1, Hereford 1, Scunthorpe 6, Swindon 2, Southend 1, Port Vale 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Aberdeen 4, Dundee United 2, Celtic v Rangers, Dundee v Dumbarton, Hearts v Hibernian, St Mirren v Morton postponed.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE: Ayr 0, Kilmarnock 0, Hamilton 1, Clyde 0, Brechin 4, Partick, Clydebank v Airdrieonians, Falkirk v St Johnstone, Forfar v East Fife, Motherwell v Meadowbank postponed.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO: Queen of South 1, Stenhousemuir 1, Albion v Dunfermline, Arbroath v Stranraer, Berwick v Montrose, Cowdenbeath v Queens Park, Raith v Alloa, Stirling v East Stirling postponed.

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield	35	20	10	5	56	31	70
Bury	36	20	9	7	62	40	69
Darlington	34	19	10	5	49	31	67
Blackpool	35	19	8	8	51	31	65
Hereford	34	18	9	7	53	30	63
Colchester	35	17	10	8	70	51	61
Scunthorpe	36	16	10	10	65	46	58
Crewe	36	16	8	12	52	48	56
Peterborough	37	15	10	12	47	42	55
Tranmere	35	17	3	15	62	52	54
Swindon	36	15	7	14	45	49	52
Port Vale	35	12	14	9	47	40	50
Mansfield	34	10	13	11	30	25	43
Hartlepool	35	11	10	14	42	50	43
Southend	36	11	10	15	52	70	43
Exeter	36	11	9	16	49	68	42
Stockport	33	11	7	15	49	53	40
Chester	35	10	8	17	45	53	38
Aldershot	33	10	7	16	38	52	37
Halifax	36	10	4	22	29	56	34
Torquay	35	7	11	17	29	49	32
Wrexham	35	8	7	20	51	59	31
Rochdale	32	7	9	16	35	50	30
Northampton	36	7	3	26	38	70	24

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	31	23	4	4	77	23	50
Celtic	29	18	6	5	66	27	42
Dundee Utd	30	16	6	8	53	30	38
Rangers	30	11	11	8	38	31	33
Hearts	30	13	4	13	42	46	30
St Mirren	30	13	4	13	35	46	30
Dundee	29	11	6	12	40	42	28
Dumbarton	29	6	7	16	29	50	19
Hibernian	30	7	5	18	30	53	19
Morton	30	4	1	25	24	86	9

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Motherwell	32	17	6	9	49	33	40
Clydebank	32	14	11	7	43	30	39
Airdrie	32	16	6	10	59	42	38
Falkirk	32	15	5	12	57	53	35
Forfar	32	12	10	10	46	41	34
Clyde	33	12	10	11	39	38	34
Brechin	32	14	6	12	43	43	34
Hamilton	33	13	8	12	38	43	34
East Fife	32	11	11	10	50	43	33
Ayr	33	11	9	13	43	43	33
Perth	32	10	7	15	47	47	31
Kilmarnock	32	8	10	15	31	52	26
Meadowbank	32	7	10	15	41	56	24
St Johnstone	32	9	8	18	44	60	23

ROOS HAVE HARD ROAD TO HOE

BY KEITH GILMOUR

FUTURE Socceroos will continue to ride a rocky road to reach the World Cup Finals beyond 1986.

That is the only construction to be placed upon the weighty explanations given by FIFA boss Dr Joao Havelange to questions levelled at him at last Wednesday's press conference.

Dr Havelange pointed to world-wide needs of the football public, media and sponsors for only the most outstanding national teams to compete in the Finals.

Oceania as a confederation does not have the political clout in the corridors of FIFA that Africa, Asia and the Eastern Bloc countries hold.

For example, five Oceania Confederation nations cannot command the en bloc vote of, say, 32 Asian nations.

UNHAPPY

Reading between the lines, it seems quite possible that Israel could find itself in another confederation's preliminary series for the 1990 World Cup.

As with Chinese Taipei, Asia will not allow them in. Europe took them last time but the Europeans are unhappy over travel and related costs to play in Tel Aviv.

Strangely the costs incurred by Australia and New Zealand are of no account.

This time around, if the Socceroos succeed in Oceania they will play either Scotland or Spain as runners-up in European Group Seven.

For 1990 you can rest assured that if there is no play-off with Europe then there will be one against a South American nation or somebody else.

One principle that FIFA will not negotiate is that any member country will be allowed into world competitions regardless of whether they are members of a confederation or not.

So FIFA will use their silver-tongued persuasive powers to see that Israel gets a run somewhere.

Dr Havelange said that he came into the president's position in 1974 with the idea of extending Oceania to include countries such as the Philippines, Japan, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia.

Concerning a permanent vice-president's position for Oceania on FIFA, it will require a change of heart by Africa, Asia and the Eastern Bloc to gain the necessary majority.

Senior vice-president Harry Cavan is highly optimistic that the International Olympic Committee will accept the proposal that Under 23 years be the only criteria for Olympic Games football entry.

"No more humbug or hypocrisy," he said, referring to the Communist nations entry of full-timers into the competition as amateurs.

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MODERN GAME DISAPPOINTS THE GREAT HUNGARIAN

—BY JOHN ECONOMOS—

MODERN soccer is disappointing the great Hungarian master, Ferenc Puskas.

"The players of today lack technical fitness, as modern coaches concentrate more and more on the physical fitness aspect of soccer. This is not good for soccer."

Puskas, soccer's living legend, currently in Australia making promotional appearances at the St George Budapest Soccer club, Canberra City Olympians, Sydney Olympic, Heidelberg and Melbourne Hungaria, spoke to me in Canberra.

This world-renowned Hungarian veteran has gone down in soccer history with his unbelievable style of play.

TERROR

Puskas brought excitement to fans and terror to goalkeepers all over the world.

He was a guest of former Australian World Cup captain Johnny Warren, who invited him for a typical Australian barbecue on his farm, Gold Creek in Canberra.

Gold Creek, far removed from the stadiums of Hungary and Spain — scenes more familiar to Puskas — is a 15 minute drive from the heart of Canberra.

Gold Creek is a 200 acre historical homestead, where tranquility is occasionally shattered by the odd bleat of a sheep, or the groan of a cow, bloodstock Warren has grazing on his property.

It was a place one would never expect to find a Hungarian immortal soccer warrior.

Puskas stood amazed, admiring the sprawling acres of the Gold Creek homestead.

He had finished a generously-sized Australian T bone steak, a feast that was in sharp contrast

to his favourite nourishment of Hungarian cabbage rolls, but nevertheless just as satisfying.

The stocky Hungarian listened to the cathedral silence of Gold Creek, so alien to the roars of packed soccer stadiums, as he admired Gold Creek's vista.

ASSESS

"Australia is such a very beautiful country. I have come to see some good friends here and play a few matches."

"I also want to see some matches of your football as you may be playing against the Spanish national team in World Cup elimination matches this year. And because I live in Spain, I would like to assess your standards."

Puskas entertained fans recently at St George Stadium, and despite his 58 years and carrying many extra kilos above his normal playing weight of the 1950s and '60s, he showed glimpses of class, touches and qualities that took him to greatness.

Uncle Joe Vlasits, former Australian World Cup coach, commented after the old boys match: "Puskas in this match showed that he has still more vision than most of our current international players."

Digesting his Australian steak, Puskas walked over towards the hayshed of Gold Creek, where we sat for a brief chat.

Q: What kind of advice would you give to Australian youngsters playing the world's biggest game and wishing to become future internationals?

A: Not only Australian youngsters, but all young players

throughout the world must work hard. They must play every day with the ball and learn something about soccer. They have to be disciplined always as there is too much money in the game today and the pressures are great so the demands are great and the player must be able to meet these demands. Shooting, running, ball-skills training everyday.

Q: What made Puskas such a famous world star?

A: I don't know. I never saw Puskas play!

All countries have their world stars but they had all worked hard at the game. Goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and forwards, all did the same thing... worked very hard in soccer.

Q: During your playing career, who in your opinion were the greatest players that you either played with or against?

A: I have too many memories of best players. Di Stefano was a good player, Bozsik, Garrincha, Nilton Santos, Czibor, Mazzola and so on. It is very difficult to say. I only believe in great teams not great players. Great players alone can't win games, but great teams do.

I look from the goalkeeper right through to the left winger.

Q: There must be a name or two... possibly the best players you have seen?

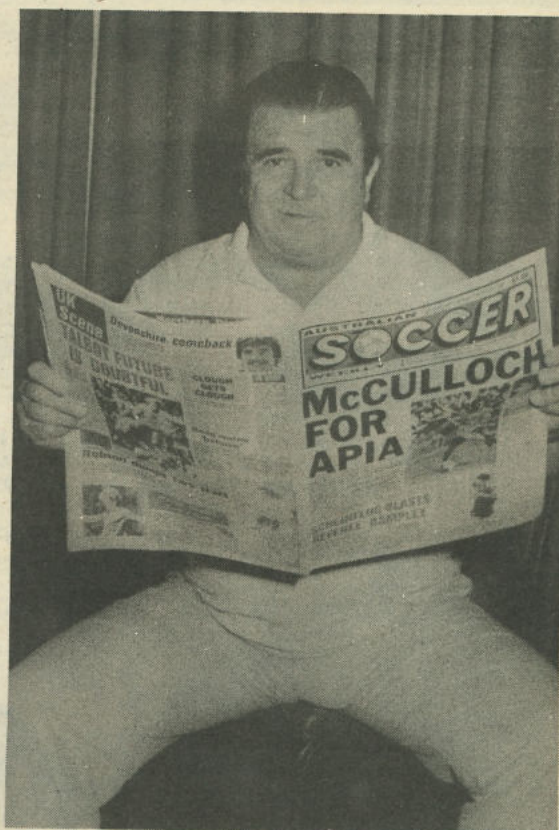
A: Yes. There are in fact four. They were the Brazilian Santos, the Hungarian, Bozsik, Brazil's Garrincha and Germany's Beckenbauer. They were all very great players.

Q: Is there a possibility that one day you will manage the great Real Madrid?

A: I don't know. Well there is a possibility, but there are many people who also would like to manage Real Madrid, especially since Venables won the championship for Barcelona this year.

Q: If Real ever asked you, would you accept?

A: First of all, it was my club. It was also a large part of my life, and I also live in Madrid. Yes, I think I would accept because I love the people there. I do not have a money problem so there is no real need for me to go



WHAT does Puskas read to catch up on all the soccer news when he's in Australia? AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, of course!

back to work for money.

Q: Forgetting the 1956 Hungarian revolution, why did you make Spain your country to live in?

A: After the revolution, I did not go immediately to Spain. I spent some time in Italy. In fact I was in Italy for nearly 18 months before I went to Spain. From there I was signed up by Real Madrid and of course I made that my home.

Q: What nationality is your wife?

A: She was born in Hungary but since then, has got her Spanish citizenship.

Q: What would you like to do with the rest of your life?

A: Work in football, around football, play some games in old boys matches, have good health, eat good food and nothing else.

Q: What is the main difference in football today from your famous playing days of the 1950s and '60s?

A: The differences are too many. After 1966, the "technical fitness" has gone down too much. The physical fitness, yes, has gone up. The game now is harder, much faster. I think that first you must have "technical fitness" and after that concentrate on the physical aspect. Today, there is too much emphasis on the physical side. That is not soccer.

Q: Why does the world not have the great stars that existed in your era?

A: I don't know. The pressures today are greater, players today have greater money, and become lazier, work less at their game. The players don't want to make the same sacrifices.

Puskas is now back in Melbourne, but on Thursday night, he will be at the Sydney Olympic club at Waterloo for a dinner in his honour.

On that night, guests will be able to see film clips of Puskas in action when Hungary annihilated the English 6-3 at Wembley.

They will also see a clip of the Real Madrid European Cup Final match against Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt in which Puskas laid the foundations for the Spanish victory scoring four of the seven goals, whilst his partner, Di Stefano, cracked in the balance.

Soccer fans will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to wine and dine with Puskas, and listen to the old master's answers during question time.

Fans, players, referees, club officials etc, wanting tickets, must ring the Sydney Olympic club on 699 9799 before Wednesday, as it is an all-ticket affair.

NSWAF YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 1 GROUP A

	U13	U14	U15	U16
Cant M'ville v Blacktown City	0-4	1-1	1-3	1-1
Marconi v Apia Leichhardt	2-1	2-2	2-3	2-1
St George v Illawarra	3-2	2-1	2-3	3-2
Sydney Olympic v Granville	0-1	7-0	7-0	2-0
Nepean v Sutherland	1-2	2-2	4-1	4-1

GROUP B

Southern Dist v Ku-ring-gai	2-1	0-4	3-1	2-3
Central Coast v Avala	3-0	1-2	1-3	0-1
Baulkham Hills v Manly	5-0	6-0	1-1	Manly
Croatia v North Bankstown	0-3	0-2	1-2	3-2
Gladesville v Melita	3-1	0-7	0-3	1-0

GROUP C

Macarthur v Campbelltown	4-1	5-0	2-0	1-0
Rockdale v Blacktown Assn	0-5	5-0	0-5	3-2
Canterbury v Sydney Yugal	11-0	1-3	3-2	3-0
Bankstown v Sydney City	0-5	3-1	1-2	0-2
Bathurst 75 bye				

FERENC PUSKAS DINNER NIGHT

Thursday evening,
April 4, 1985,

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Telephone 699 9799

**Wine & dine with Ferenc Puskas,
plus film clips, question time**

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THIS WEEK'S MATCHES



NSL CUP — ROUND 3

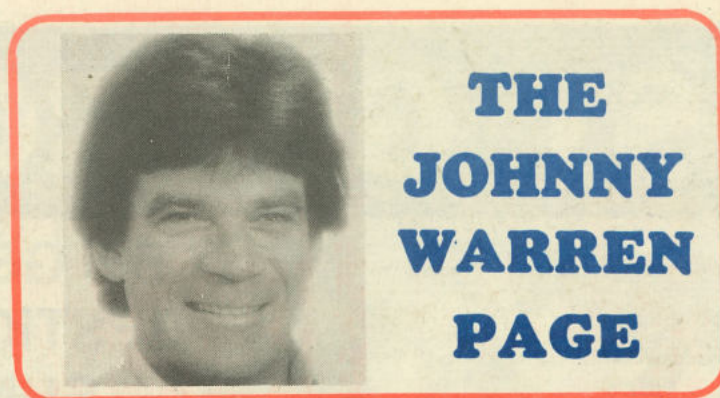


SYDNEY OLYMPIC
v
CANBERRA CITY
St George Stadium
7.30pm

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

ADELAIDE CROATIA
v
**SUNSHINE GEORGE
CROSS**
Hindmarsh Stadium
8pm

PRESTON
v
GREEN GULLY
Olympic Park
7.30pm



**THE
JOHNNY
WARREN
PAGE**

BYRNE'S SHOCK RETURN

LEFT: TERRY BYRNE contests the ball for Canberra against Hungary a few years ago. Now the popular player is on his way back from serious injury.

Written off — but now back in NSL

THEY don't come back from cruciate ligament operations.

That's a fair statement in view of the few, if any, who successfully make it back from today's most dreaded football operation.

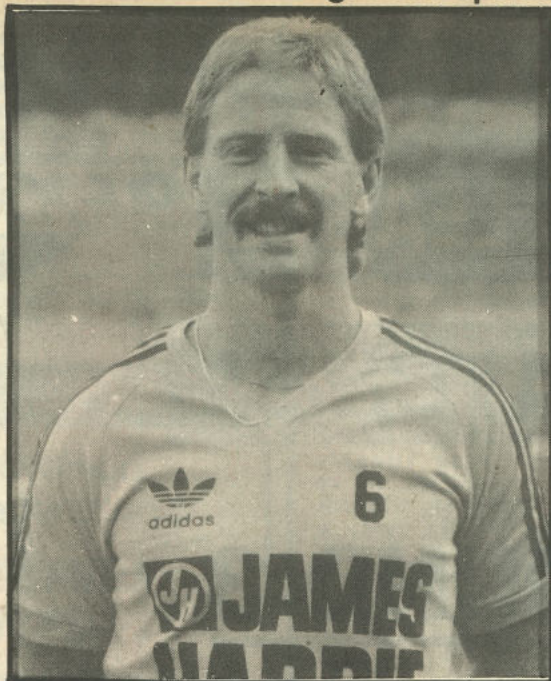
One making a fair fist of it, though, is Canberra City Olympians' former skipper and longest-serving player, Terry Byrne.

The likeable 26-year-old had established himself as one of the finest players in the NSL with his 42 goals in 150-odd appearances for the National Capital side.

Byrne won many admirers with his performances for Canberra since joining the club as a 17-year-old back at the start of the 1978 season.

INJURED

The most vocal of those admirers will tell you Byrne deserved national



team recognition a long time ago.

But the wheels fell off that idea when Byrne was tragically and senselessly injured in a "friendly" social game at the end of the 1984 season.

As skipper and viewed as Canberra's best and most popular player, it was a tragedy for the club not to mention the player himself.

Most wrote him off. One of the most educational aspects of a serious injury is that it sorts out your real friends and gives you a deeper, more meaningful and more realistic outlook on life itself.

'MURDER'

Now a wiser and more mature Terry Byrne is well on the road to recovery after a painful 12 months out of the game.

"It was murder being out of the game

and not knowing whether I'd be able to play again," says Byrne of the past year.

"People were sympathetic but you knew what they were thinking — 'he'll never play again.'"

"I'm not back to my old form which will take time but I'm moving okay and the knee is giving me no problems."

"A lot of it's still psychological and it will take a lot of games to get back to where I was."

Having been through the physical,

psychological and emotional post-operative period Byrne is going through I believe he's done tremendously well at this stage.

Only someone who has gone through such a traumatic experience can really sympathise with Byrne.

AWARDS

He's getting better with each match and come the second round of the NSL championship Terry Byrne will not be far from his best.

That will be good news for Canberra City fans as there have

been few players admired by them more than Byrne.

Byrne came to Australia from Preston (UK) at the start of the 1978 season and was an immediate hit with Canberra.

Since then he's won the club's Player of the Year Award in 1979, AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY'S Player of the Year award in 1981, and he averaged six goals a season from his basically defensive role.

Byrne has no regrets about his move to Australia and Canberra.

Terry, wife Carol and two-year-old son Paul have their own home at Kambah, a southern suburb of the National Capital.

He has a first-class job as service manager for the MLC Tower in Woden, which houses the administrative offices of the Aboriginal Affairs Department — run by his club president and boss of the Aboriginal Affairs Department, Charles Perkins.

With all this going for him, all Byrne needs now is a few more games and a successful comeback in 1985.

SEEDS OF A PACIFIC CUP

BY KEITH GILMOUR

ALTHOUGH the intention to establish a Pacific Cup for national champion clubs was announced with a fanfare of trumpets, it will take an extraordinary share of good management and good luck to bring it into being.

The idea itself is sound enough — to run a championship for the top club from interested nations from around the rim of the Pacific Ocean.

Australia's relationships with Asian Confederation nations have steadily improved over the years, which allows some basis for hope of co-operation.

The scheme has the approval of the Oceania Confederation, although its chairman Charlie Dempsey was quick to point out that it would not incur any costs on the project nor seek any monetary return from it.

The next step, however, is to write to all

suitable national associations seeking details of their interest or otherwise, timing, costing, etc.

Letters will be sent to countries such as Indonesia, Singapore, the People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Canada and the United States, as well as South American countries with Pacific borders.

The number of present cups for national teams and the cost burden are major problems.

Oceania members Fiji and Papua New Guinea may find their clubs would find it difficult indeed to compete.

The role of testing the Pacific waters falls initially to the Technical and Development Committee of the Australian Soccer Federation.

It remains to be seen what they can come up with over coming months.

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WARM-UP PRACTICES SHOULD BE VARIED

By NSW Director of Coaching, Alan Vest

WARM-UPS often cause coaches problems with how best to start off the training session

But there are many different and varied practices, both with and without a ball, which cater for plenty of movement and are enjoyable.

There are many things that can be coached in these practices if the coach wants to.

Many of the practices are called "related practices" because, as the name implies, they are related to the game but haven't all the components of a game, i.e. area, opposition objective etc.

These practices are ideal for junior players, but many of them are good for seniors as well and with a little adaption can be physically hard too.

PRACTICES WITHOUT BALL

1. IN PRESCRIBED AREA:

One or two players hold ball with both hands on it and have to touch other players with ball. Others obviously have to try to avoid that.

2. TAG:

In prescribed area, one player chases and tags another — they join hands then another — when fours then split into pairs until last man tagged.

3. GROUPS OF FOUR:

Players numbered one to four — one chases two, who when touches, chases three, who when touches chases four, who when touches chases one and so on. Time limit is very strenuous.

4. CIRCLE RELAY IN PAIRS:

Various activities, e.g. on partner's back — on call jump-off, through legs, around circle back onto partner's back.

5. CIRCLE AGAIN:

One player on outside jogs around outside of circle, until he touches one player who then has to chase to try and tag before he gets back.

PRACTICES WITH A BALL

1. CIRCLE WITH NUMBER OF PLAYERS AT PRACTICE:

Balls with players at intervals — number depends on how hard you want them to work.

OBJECTIVES:

- Running across circle avoiding other players
- Concentrating on head up (vision)
- Change of pace
- Smooth take over off toe of player
- Meeting player without a ball

VARIATIONS

- Passing in above five metres from man going toward
- Two defenders in middle so players have to dribble
- Shoot if players on outside are goalkeepers.

2. HANDBALL:

8 v 8 in specified area. Player cannot run with ball.

3. GROUPS IN SMALL AREA:

Moving about and passing and moving ball first time.

4. IN PAIRS:

Ball between two — can work on passing control, one-twos, etc.

5. TWO TEAMS:

Throw/head/catch — play in that sequence, but can only score with headed goal.

FIFA COURSE AT PARKLEA

FIFA, in conjunction with the Australian and New South Wales Soccer Federations, will be conducting a two-day seminar at Parklea on Monday and Tuesday, April 8-9.

German FIFA coach Heinz Marotzki will make a flying visit to Australia.

Marotzki conducts coaching courses for FIFA all over the world, as well as being on the technical committee for the World Cup and World Youth Championship.

The two-day course is for the top coaches in Australia — namely National League coaches, State League coaches and state coaches.

All these top coaches have been invited for what should be one of the best gatherings of coaches for a long time.

On Monday evening, April 8, between 7-9pm, there will be a special session with Marotzki for everyone interested in the game — coaches, administrators, physical education teachers, trainers, etc.

This will also be at

Parklea and is open to everyone.

This is an opportu-

ity for you to listen and learn from a prominent overseas coach.

PROGRAMMES ARE NEEDED

WE still seem to be lacking in the department of promoting our game, particularly at club level.

One of the best and easiest ways of getting a message over, particularly to spectators at a match, is by having a match programme.

This seems to be becoming the exception rather than the rule.

I believe it's something we must do, not only to keep the regular spectators informed, but any new spectators can instantly see what's going on at the club and more to the point who's playing and any other facts about players and teams that need telling.

What's surprising is that it doesn't take long to do, doesn't need to be on extravagant paper or in colour, and it can be inexpensive.

If clubs have sponsors, it's the easier way also of getting their message across.

An eight-page programme, which can include photos, can be run off on a photocopier in a couple of hours.

So come on your clubs, let's have a bit of information for the spectators, and let's promote our game.

Australian Soccer



6pm Monday

The Olympic Airways Soccer League kicks off each week on SBS TV.

Every Monday, Les Murray presents all the action from the weekend games. Plus 'Goal of the Week' and panel discussions. Repeated Tuesday nights.

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — APRIL 1, 1985

11



YOUTH CHANCE ELUDES KOCZKA

ANDREW KOCZKA in action for St George:

ABOVE — in defence, marking Newcastle striker Derek Todd.

BELOW — in attack, challenged by Apia Leichhardt stopper Mark Pullen.

Profile

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

ANDREW KOCZKA, one of the NSL's most versatile players, must be wondering what he has to do to be recognised at national Youth level.

The tall and aggressive St George left-back has lost a major chance to impress national Youth coach Jimmy Shoulder.

The Australian Soccer Federation decided to withdraw the Young Socceroos from the Joao Havelange Tournament in Mexico, and Koczka must have been a contender for that tour.

What's even more surprising is that the St George junior made the selection squad for the famed 1983 Youth Socceroo squad after just two NSL appearances.

ESTABLISH

"I must admit I was surprised. Les Scheinflug picked me as one of the possible players in 1983," Koczka said.

"It didn't worry me missing out. You've got to consider that team had class players and NSL regulars.

"It was great being considered amongst players like Jim Patikas, Tony Franken, Tom McCulloch and Co."

But what of his non-selection for the current team's World Youth Championship elimination matches?

"I was very disappointed, especially when you consider that Les was looking for players with NSL experience when he was national Youth coach.

"Last year I had a

whole season to establish myself. Everyone tells you that you must play in the NSL to prove yourself and not in the Youth League.

"I've just got to keep on playing and do my job. Maybe Jimmy Shoulder doesn't think highly of NSL players?"

No-one doubts Koczka's versatility. Last year he played in practically every position — including goal!

"It was an unbelievable year. I played left-back, stopper, anywhere in the midfield and all the positions in the front-line.

"Don't forget I also had a go at goal when Terry Greedy got injured in a match in Brisbane against Lions.

"Since I was reserve goalie, I was thrown into goal. I went in when we were losing 2-0.

"We ended up losing 2-1 and I kept a clean sheet," the youngster gleefully added.

DEMISE

St George can thank the demise of the Canterbury Association during the late 1970s for the signing of Koczka.

"I played all my junior soccer in the Canterbury district. It all started at Earlwood Wanderers.

"After the Canterbury Association merged with Marrickville Olympic, I decided to try my luck with St George

as it was the closest club to me," Koczka said.

During his years at Earlwood, Koczka was to link with one of Australia's finest Youth players can current senior squad member, Peter Ras-kopoulos.

"My brother played with Peter at Earlwood but they were a few years ahead of me. I used to go down and have a kick when they were at rep training.

"I don't think Ras-ko ever thought he would be lining up against me in the NSL."

CHANCES

Amongst the many surprised people when Koczka was omitted from the team for the WYC matches at St George Stadium was club coach Frank Arok.

"He was disappointed that Pedro Ricoy and I missed out," Koczka said.

"He thought we had good chances of getting in."

And what does the future hold?

"I want to just keep on playing as well as I can," the former NSW junior representative said.

"I hope St George can win the League this year and it would be great if I could get back into the Youth team. Everyone would love to play for their country.

"I hope both things can happen this year."



CLUBS SEARCH FOR ANSWER TO CROWD PROBLEM

BLACKTOWN CITY and Penrith City were added to the expanded National League in 1984, but a year later their inclusion has not been justified by their low level of crowd support.

Their paths to the top club competition in Australia were very different — the Demons having played in the then Phillips League in 1980-81 before being relegated to State League for two seasons; the Panthers being a newly-created entity formed to compete successfully for a place in the National League with established State League clubs Sutherland and Manly.

Penrith came in with big hopes and even bigger promises, but now, in their early stages of their second NSL season, they are nowhere near achieving the goals they set out in their original submission to join the League.

They promised good crowds; they said people in the Nepean junior district wanted a top senior club to support.

CROWDS

Indeed that seemed a legitimate claim, as Penrith organisers had staged successful exhibition matches and hosted the 1982 NSL Grand Final.

However, in 1984 Penrith City's crowds regularly failed to top the 1,000 mark; in fact two home matches

against Brisbane City hit rock-bottom figures of 215 and 250.

The current season has opened with more disappointing home crowds for the Panthers — 398 against St George and 433 for the Blacktown match.

On the same day Penrith City hosted the Demons at Cook Park in St Marys, a crowd of 10,615 watched Penrith's rugby league team play Balmain at Penrith Park.

It is widely recognised by soccer officials that a large percentage of the rugby league crowd consists of junior soccer players and their families.

CLASHES

A walk through the crowd at Penrith Park in the middle of winter provides the evidence of this... kids decked out in the tracksuits of their respective junior clubs.

In the Blacktown area, most children are avid Parramatta fans, but Blacktown City secretary-manager Peter Thorne believes soccer can successfully co-exist with rugby league.

Where soccer tries to compete with league, it will always be the loser, and Penrith City must attempt to avoid playing their matches in direct opposition to Penrith rugby league home matches.

There will be four more home clashes

between the soccer and rugby league clubs this year, so Penrith City should look to staging Saturday afternoon or evening matches on those weekends.

Yet the soccer club are not only competing with rugby league, but also with the insular approach of local junior club members.

That's the view of Penrith City treasurer Lee Kol, who provides a vital link between the local junior and senior bodies by also serving as president of the Nepean District Soccer Football Association.

"People seem to be more interested in their own clubs than in Penrith City," Kol said.

However, the club administration cannot expect people to want to come to matches: they have to get out and chase them.

Blacktown City are going after the very youngest junior soccer players this year — the Under 6 age-groups.

EXPOSE

"The mothers give us the kids at six," Thorne explained. "They want their children to play soccer."

"Our job is to expose them to soccer players before they are exposed to rugby league players."

"By nine they know all about Peter Sterling, Ray Price and Royce Simmons," Thorne said.



This year Blacktown will be staging Under 6 games at the Gabbie Stadium prior to NSL matches.

It's the McDonald's theory — if you can get children to want something badly enough, they will pester their parents until they get it.

So McDonald's give out free offers to kids, knowing that their parents will come in and buy something at the same time.

If young soccer players can be attracted to NSL matches, perhaps with free passes handed out through schools or junior clubs, they'll bring their parents.

PERFORM

Then it's up to the team to perform well and entertain them to get them wanting to come again.

I spoke to people going out of Cook Park last year, and perhaps the observation of one father who took his sons to a match says it all.

"It was boring," he said. "I get more enjoyment watching the kids play."

Unfortunately, some people in soccer do not understand that soccer is competing for the leisure dollar in our society.

A sad indictment of the lack of a competitive attitude amongst the NSL clubs is the fact that only two Northern Division clubs voted in favour of reducing the adult entry fee from \$5 to \$4.

The two clubs were Blacktown and Penrith.

The motion was put forward by Blacktown, whose enterprising attitude is further evidenced by their decision to sign Kevin Keegan for two NSL matches.

DIVIDEND

At a cost of \$12,000 for Keegan's services, it's a gamble by the Demons, but one that seems sure to pay off.

The compact Gabbie Stadium should be bursting at the seams when the former England captain and two-time Euro-

pean Player of the Year steps out in a red and black shirt against Canberra City and Sydney Croatia.

But it is the long-term dividend that Thorne is looking for.

"Hopefully some of the people who will come along just to see Keegan play will come back to watch Blacktown City again," he said.

The Demons have a successful licensed club behind them which allows them to pay out big money for ventures like the Keegan promotion and the signing of crowd-pleasing footballers like Phil O'Connor and John Bradley.

However, Black-

town's crowds only averaged just over 1,000 in 1984, even though they attracted 2,000 to 3,000 supporters per match in their inaugural National League season in 1980.

'BANISHED'

Penrith City do not have a licensed club or sponsorship to fall back on.

They were hours away from liquidation in December last year, only to be bailed out by, ironically, the Penrith Rugby League Club.

Leagues Club manager Roger Cowan said the \$150,000 provided by his club was "one-off assistance".

"We want first

grade soccer in Penrith," Cowan explained why the rugby league club backed the rival football code.

"We understood that if Penrith City had been unable to meet their commitments, they would have been banished for many, many years," he continued.

Penrith are still struggling financially, and whether they can turn the corner remains to be seen.

Peter Thorne says district clubs like Blacktown and Penrith must boost their crowds in the next two or three years. Otherwise club soccer in Australia may face an even gloomier future than at present.

13

When 433 spectators turned out for the local derby between Penrith City and Blacktown City at Cook Park, the great Australian dream of having well-supported district clubs competing successfully in the nation's premier competition seemed no closer to reality than at any other time in the last decade.

With the majority of Sydney's ethnic-supported clubs suffering from falling crowd figures in recent years the way has been open for district clubs to take up the initiative.

Two out of eight National League clubs in Sydney are district clubs. They are Penrith City and Blacktown City, representing neighbouring areas in the populous outer western suburbs.

BRAD EARL looks at these two clubs and whether they can reverse the downward slide of soccer as a spectator sport in Sydney.



PHIL O'CONNOR (right): a crowd-pleaser.



KEVIN KEEGAN (centre) celebrates a goal for Newcastle United, his last British club. Keegan is on his way to Australia to appear in two National League matches for Blacktown City.

THIS WILL BE SUPER SERIES

WYC STAR LEADS BRAZILIAN SIDE

BY TOM ANDERSON

THERE can surely be no arguments over the composition of teams and the format of the exciting international series to be held here in May/June.

With South American giants Vasco da Gama, Italian millionaires Udinese, English superstars Tottenham Hotspur and our own Soccerroos participating, we have a menu fit to satisfy the needs of every fan in Australia.

To add the finishing touches, \$200,000 prize-money has been put up for the teams to play for — something that will ensure that the action is fast and furious throughout.

The series will be played on a double-header basis at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Football Park in Adelaide.

And if this series does not attract big attendances and shut up the pessimists, then nothing will!

The organiser, Peter Sheean of the West Nally Company, deserves congratulations on his efforts to organise this star-studded series.

Sheean has obviously taken all the tournaments in the past into consideration before coming up with a format that looks a winner.

VENUES

The venues are excellent, with the lights at the SCG and the MCG the best in Australia and perfect for late afternoon or evening football.

Football Park in Adelaide is the only venue that is suitable in South Australia for such a promotion.

This series, which will be followed by another star-studded competition in August, will give our Soccerroos invaluable practice for the World Cup campaign at the end of the year.

For these three visiting teams are amongst the best there is and, with big prizemoney at stake, they will pull out all stops to win.

In fact, it is highly possible Vasco da Gama could arrive here as Brazilian champions and Spurs

as English champions.

As for Udinese, well they are a magic team with brilliant players, as the Soccerroos found out during their visit to Udine in December last year.

Vasco da Gama are one of Brazil's oldest and best — supported clubs.

Headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, they are coached by Edu, who is the older brother of the famous Zico, who will be here with his Italian club Udinese.

ROWING

Vasco was founded in 1898 and were originally a rowing club until football was included in the club activities in 1915.

This came about when a soccer club, Luzitania FC, joined forces with the rowers of the Vasca club.

Previously Luzitania, with a membership restricted to Portuguese citizens, had been refused admission to the Rio league because of their discriminatory policies.

But as part of Vasco da Gama they were admitted to the third division.

In 1923 they won their way into first division to join such established clubs as Fluminense, Flamengo, Botafogo and America.

BRILLIANT

Success after success came their way and they were soon known throughout Brazil as "The Victory Express".

Some great Vasco players of the past have been Tostao, Ademir, Augusto, Vava and Maneca.

Today's Vasco outfit — at present leading the competition — is a star-studded line-up, with Roberto and Geovani positively brilliant.

Australia has already come in contact with Geovani on two occasions when he led the Brazilian Youth team in the Joao Havelange tournament in Acapulco and to its win in the 1983 WYC in Mexico.

For many years now the cry has gone the rounds here "Why



ZICO on the ball for Brazil against West Germany. Zico is currently with Italian club Udinese, who will tour Australia next month.

don't we see Brazilian team?"

Now the cries have been answered — and how!

Udinese, the millionaires, who will shoulder Italy's honor in the series, are a wonderful team and you can forget their somewhat mediocre standing in the Italian championship — believe me they are tops.

GENIOUS

Zico, of course, is their star and a genius on the football field.

But don't for one minute imagine that Udinese are a one-man team — they're not.

In the other Brazilian Edino, local heroes Andrea Carnivale, Massimo Mauro, Attilio Tesser and Paolo Miano, they have footballers of outstanding ability.

Udinese beat the Soccerroos in Udine in December by a display of positive attacking football.

Tottenham Hotspur are an institution in English football and what can I say about this great club that is not already known?

Spurs have always been one of the aristocrats of British football and the current team is no exception.

Under the direction of manager Peter Shreeves, the Spurs are committed to bright, attacking football and, with players such as Ray Clemence, Garth Crooks, Ossie Ardiles, Steve Perryman in their line-up, they have plenty of appeal.

Such opposition will also bring the best out of Frank Arok's Soccerroos and this looks and should be a series that will pack the stadiums.

Indeed, as I said earlier, if this doesn't please the fans then we might as well shut up shop and take up tidlywinks!

BIG CROWD TIPPED AT ST GEORGE

SYDNEY CROATIA, looking very smart following yesterday's victory over National League leaders Sydney City, go to St George Stadium on Sunday with great confidence.

Croatia play St George at the rescheduled kick-off time of 6pm due to the Easter festivities.

Croatia have a classy look about them this season under the guidance of new president Tony Basic.

Jimmy Patikas and Zarko Odzakov, both newly-signed stars for Croatia, plus player-coach Vedran Rozic at sweeper, give Croatia a look of pace, style and solidarity as they shoot for honours this year.

St George manager-coach Frank Arok said last night: "Make no mistake, Croatia will be a force this year with Odzakov calling the shots in mid-field and Patikas supplying explosive pace coming from behind."

"The question is can we contain their newly-acquired power?"

Yesterday Saints scored three goals \$their first for three weeks: against visiting Newcastle.

It is expected that Arok will retain the same line-up he used with great success yesterday.

Andy Koczka, Saints' left-back, was pushed into the attack where his height was used to great advantage.

St George may use their new striker \$expected to sign tomorrow:, against Croatia in the second half.

With the Sydney Olympic set down to play Apia on Easter Monday, a huge crowd is expected to see Saints take on Croatia.

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GEOVANI with the Golden Boot and the Golden Ball which he won at the 1983 World Youth Championship Finals in Mexico. Geovani is one of Vasco da Gama's stars.

STOWELL LOOKS TO PREMIER PLAYERS

QUEENSLAND Premier League players are set to gain their largest representation ever in the State squad to be picked this week for the clash with New South Wales at Perry Park on April 25.

State coach Bruce Stowell has repeatedly said in recent weeks that he has not been entirely impressed with the form of the state's NSL players and may be forced to look to Premier League players.

"On current form I couldn't name 16 NSL players worthy of state representation. The National League players are just not playing well and I'm certainly not happy with the strikers I've seen."

Stowell said.

Those leading the hopefuls to be picked in the Maroon squad from the Premier League include former Lions NSL players Jim Hermiston, Craig Low and Ron Millman and Coalstars striker Dave Wheeler.

Lions youngsters Danny Wright and Richard Basingthwaite, both Young Socceroos, are also not presently playing NSL on a regular basis but are

among the state team contenders.

The selection of Hermiston, the former NSL Player of the Year, in the Brisbane team which played Ipswich in an inter-city challenge last weekend made him a hot favourite to be included in Stowell's Brisbane team.

The inter-city clash was the final trial for the Queensland side and Stowell left no doubts that he was looking at Premier League players



RON MILLMAN: state squad hopeful.

Lettieri, 30, has been expected for the past fortnight but a strike in the Brazilian public service delayed the processing of his travel documents.

Lettieri is a former Port Allegro player and reportedly once played in the same side as Brazilian World Cup ace Falcao, who now plays in Italy.

Brisbane City's present forward-line is former Canberra player Alan Reis, who seems to be growing in confidence with each game for his new club, former Young Socceroo Stephen Glockner and former Valley Trident striker Peter Carey.

COACH CALLS FOR 13-A-SIDE SOCCER!

QUEENSLAND soccer, which is famous for the suggestion by its president Ian Brusasco for soccer without goalkeepers, has produced yet another idea to shock the purists — 13-a-side soccer.

Mount Gravatt Premier League coach Eric Thompson made his extraordinary suggestion after Brusasco boasted that rule changes to the XXXX pre-season tournament this year had been an outstanding success.

Under the new rules, players can only be offside in a 25 metre zone out from the goal, and players are not permitted to pass back to the keeper within the zone, marked by a line across the field which one wit dubbed "The Brusasco Line".

Forty-seven goals were scored in the first 10 matches of the competition, prompting Brusasco to declare the experiment a success.

But Thompson slammed the rules as stifling skill and claimed it was impossible for 11 players to produce good football. The rules, he said, turned the game into one of constant running and desperate long kicking.

SERIOUS

"Two extra on-field players would allow teams to slow things down and play better football. At the moment the game has no resemblance to normal soccer, so we may as well go the whole way," Thompson said, perhaps somewhat tongue-in-cheek.

But Thompson is serious when it comes to defending his players and he has no doubts that the new rules are crucifying defenders and skilful players.

"As soon as the ball is in the zone the defender has no escape, his only choice is to hook the ball away for a corner or throw-in. It's hard to get skilful players to play like that," he said.

But Brusasco claims the unpredictability and extra pressure is what is making the XXXX tournament an exciting and entertaining spectacle.

Thompson is not alone in his criticism of the present rules.

East's John Sime has said the rules have turned soccer into "a lottery", while Lions' Gordon Arrowsmith has dismissed the QSF's experiment as "a joke".

And using the argument that the new rules have produced more goals tends to lose some clout when last year's tournament is examined.

The 18 qualifying games, under normal rules, produced 62 goals — 3.4 per game, which is only half a goal per game less than this season.

SCRIGGINS BACK AFTER UK TRIAL

QUEENSLAND Youth team and Brisbane City striker Lee Scriggins has arrived back in Australia after a two-month trial with English First Division club Leicester City.

Scriggins, 19, trained full-time with the club and apparently made quite an impression, but Leicester declined to extend the trial because of the \$8,000 transfer fee city and placed on Scriggins.

"They said that there were boys trialling at the club of the same age and same ability that they could get for nothing. They said I would be better off to come back to Australia and try my luck here," Scriggins said.

Scriggins is now keen to force his way back into the Brisbane City NSL team.

He became a regular in the side last season and with City finding it difficult to put the ball in the back of the net, coach Tony Lowndes could turn to Scriggins within weeks.

Scriggins, who has been training nearly every day since he went to England two months ago, is superbly fit.

The pressure is really on City's present forwards to perform as the club's Brazilian signing, Roberto Lettieri, is expected to arrive this week and club officials will be keen to have him slotted into the side as soon as possible.

NSW STATE LEAGUE WITH FRANK COLETTA

WOLLONGONG WIN UMBRO SHIELD

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA gave an insight into what the Second Division might eventuate into with an overwhelming 3-0 victory over Bathurst in the NSW Federation's Umbro Shield at Francis Park yesterday.

The early part of the first half did not give too much indication of the steamrolling Bathurst were to eventually receive.

Bathurst used the long ball to effect in the first 10 minutes but any thoughts of their getting the upper hand were soon dispelled when, from the first corner of the match, centre-forward Barney King rose high to meet John Bingham's corner-kick and score with a header.

Wollongong looked quite useful going forward and were not drawn into playing a kick-and-run match, their one-touch football was better than Second Division stuff at times.

Simplistic build-ups were the order of the day from the 'Gong side and it made a pleasant spectacle.

The Wollongong midfield grabbed the match by the throat and by the 30th minute the issue was settled when a free-kick was awarded just outside the area and captain Bingham drove it home via a deflection from the wall.

The second half was a story of missed opportunities and never really reached any great heights apart from the time striker Gardiner ran on to a midfield pass and eventually scored after Bathurst goalie MacCabe had made a brave save at his feet.

The 3-0 win was certainly a true indication of Wollongong's superiority. They earned it by battling every inch of the way against a vigorous and sometimes over-zealous Bathurst side.

BATHURST: MacCabe, Ashelford, Elms, Hadley, Simpson, Tait, Lippiatt (Cosgrove), Waine, Hadley, Davis (Lockhart), Ross.

WOLLONGONG: Robinson, Traicevski, Sattin, Talevski, Campbell, Muhlbauer, H. Sattin, Bingham, King, Gardiner (Beaton), Giraldo (Krkovski).

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THE competition for the goalkeeper's position with Fairy Meadow is certain to be keen this season.

Warwick Young has returned to the club after a stint with St George and John Krajnovic has resigned after helping the team gain promotion last year.

Young has the edge in experience but Krajnovic has learned the hard way since making first grade and has the ability to make things very difficult for coach John Fleming.

TNT SKYPAK SOCCER LEAGUE

SATURDAY APRIL 6, 1985

POLONIA v CANTERBURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC
CHOPIN PARK

SUNDAY APRIL 7, 1985

FAIRY MEADOW v MANLY WARRINGAH
CORRIMAL MEMORIAL PARK

URUGUAYAN AUBURN v KU-RING-GAI
MONA PARK

AVALA v ROCKDALE ILINDEN
KNIGHT PARK

WARRINGAH NARRABEEN v SUTHERLAND
NARRABEEN FITNESS CAMP

BANKSTOWN NATIONAL v MELITA EAGLES
JENSEN PARK

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

SATURDAY APRIL 13, 1985

MELITA EAGLES v WARRINGAH NARRABEEN
MELITA STADIUM

SUNDAY APRIL 14, 1985

KU-RING-GAI v FAIRY MEADOW
PARKLANDS OVAL

MANLY WARRINGAH v B'TOWN NATIONAL
CROMER PARK

ROCKDALE ILINDEN v URUGUAYAN AUBURN
HURSTVILLE OVAL

CANTERBURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC v AVALA
ARLINGTON OVAL

SUTHERLAND v POLONIA
SEYMOUR SHAW PARK



JUNIOR SCENE

Compiled
by Keith
Gilmour



REFORM IS NEEDED

NSW Youth
League
round-up

THERE is an unmistakably strong feeling around the progressive clubs of the NSW Sydney Branch Youth League that officialdom has dipped out of addressing main points in the necessary reform of the competition.

So much so that an altered framework is imperative for 1986.

So much so that an altered framework is imperative for 1986.

The Sydney Branch this year has handled one vital problem, that of grading clubs on overall performance into divisions.

Little had been achieved in 1984 as many clubs were recording cricket scores against ungraded opposition.

What is now listed as Groups A, B and C is surely a disguised name for first,

second and third divisions.

Nothing is yet known of whether there will be promotion and relegation or the nature of the end of season play-offs and clubs are critical of that.

CRITICAL

But the other main problem relates to the fact that ambitious clubs — those anxious to produce young Australian players to highest levels — are being thwarted by the limiting of the season to four short months for the majority of them.

The mixing of rep-

resentative teams of associations some years back with the junior units of leading National and State League clubs had a play-off in improvement of top standards.

Improvement in selection processes amongst the Youth League clubs has led to teams being formed for the following year at the end of the current season.

Best-managed clubs have their squads set up in October, or November at the latest, for the following year.

But what is now occurring is that keen

young players have up to six months (or five if the Christmas/New Year break is excluded) for trials and training and only a basic four months football season.

LEFT IDLE

There will be some form of play-offs to follow but these are only short term and probably will only cover the four leading clubs of the grades in each group.

Six high-quality teams in each grade of Group A would be left idle.

By the time of the August/September school holidays, there will be state

and national championships which provide for a very limited number of participants.

The Youth League comprises 116 teams of U13 to U16 players. Even at 14 players per squad they include the top 1,600 or so if high-potential players in the state.

At the time of national championships, only U13 to U15 players are involved, well less than 100 players.

FORMULA

What is needed for the future is a seven-month season and not four months.

Competitions would begin in March and end in late September.

To minimise disruption of competitions the leading

clubs in each grade might have to be the state representatives.

Purists may not be happy over this, but when the chips are down it will be a matter of which system produces the most stars.

A formula would have to be found to ensure that Youth League games are not disrupted by the state titles.

This should be possible as this series is held in the school holidays.

Even a cursory glance at results indicates that the strong Sydney associations do not receive worthwhile competition from South NSW, Western NSW and Riverina as a rule.

So Youth League games should pre-

vail and a suitable series provided for the country folk.

For a March/September Youth League season, there would have to be an acceptance of some use of away or neutral grounds for many clubs as local availability is often limited to April/August.

SUCCESS

There would have to be two divisions instead of three, giving some 28 games for the season proper.

The success of the Youth League revolves around the quality of players produced for senior football.

Whatever is required to achieve this end surely must be done.

GLADESVILLE-HORNSBY'S 'PARENT POWER'

INCREASED support from the parents of players in the NSW Youth League U13 to U16 squads will stand to the credit of Gladesville-Hornsby this year, according to local official Ken Clancey.

His crystal ball indicates this in spite of some ordinary trial results, which stem from a deal of experimentation by the coaches.

Also in favour of the club is its placement in Group B, which is ideal for the squads at their current stage of development.

Gladesville-Hornsby is looking to increasing interest and rewards for their youngsters to counter the continual drift of youngster born and bred in the district to the junior units

of some of Sydney's major clubs.

Last year they lost six players to Sydney Olympic and that group included the very talented Alan Welsh.

The U16s will aim to raise funds for a trip such as to New Zealand, whilst the U14s and looking interstate. The U13 and U15 groups would entertain suitable visitors at home.

Tony Clare, who had such players as Apia Leichhardt full-back Carlo Spina in his previous squads, is looking after the U16 team.

Gladesville-Hornsby's Second Division goalkeeper Paul van der Leeden coaches the U15s, Greg Kokoviadis U14 and former Prague player Ray Thompson the U13s, who reached second position in their Mini Ampol Cup pool.

SECOND YEAR FOR ROCKDALE ILINDEN

ROCKDALE ILINDEN club should be better organised this season after joining the Youth League for the first time in 1984, reports club junior official Neville Wenham.

Home ground is Marrickville Oval, which is about as good as the club can hope to do in the district.

The policy is to build players for the senior teams, and certainly Rockdale Ilinden, under senior coach Iliya Takacs, will give the NSW State League championship a good shake this year.

"The money which is being invested in the junior club will be more than repaid if we can produce three or four players for the senior club each year," Mr Wenham said.

The senior club obviously realises

where their future lies as they are giving the juniors plenty of support.

The Under 13 team includes two lads who represented NSW Primary Schools last year. This team went on to win the Australian Championships.

They are right winger Van Luach and left midfielder Stuart Wenham.

In addition the team has a sprinkling of Mid East school-boy representatives.

The Under 16 squad, which has been training with the third grade team, could be one of the surprise packets in Group C.

SUTHERLAND'S TEST

SUTHERLAND's Group A grading will put the Shire to the test in this year's Youth League, but publicity officer Graham Stanke believes that the teams will have a big season.

The Association itself is a huge organisation and the background is there to promote some strong young players through the ranks.

Although last year's U15 side has had to be rebuilt, apart from four or five players, the squad could pose a threat to the U16 competition under coach David Mamao.

In the last trial round Sutherland obtained a clean sweep in all grades against Bankstown after obtaining mixed results against Illawarra, St George and Apia Leichhardt.

This year's director of coaching Bruce Tilt, who took his U14 team to victory in the NSW State Championships, elected to stay and work with the fresh U14 group.

The U13 side is being coached by Vic Liney and U15 by Andy Baber.



GREG ANKUDINOFF: U15 coach.

16 Socceroo side in China later this year, joined Vic Dagleish and John Haynes at Avala.

Right now George Nouis is showing out well in the squad.

The U15 squad, under Greg Ankudinoff, is extremely talented although perhaps lacking in a specialist striker.

Steve Refines played for NSW last season as well as Darren Corbett. Also tipped to shine are Steve Georgakis, Kazan Hadden, George Giannopoulos and young Fijian Joey Nulewabau.

The U14 lads have tonnes of potential which can be realised if they follow the advice of coach Stan Gabriel.

Stan was highly respected at Marconi. In his playing days he represented Malaysia and Asian All Stars and went to England for trials with a Football League club.

Watch out for state player Michael Tsingolis and also Kerry Agiosodis and Joey Saratore.

In U13, George Sorras is versatile. He normally plays as striker but he also is a fine goalkeeper.

Sorras and midfielder Alan Welsh are both trialling for the state.

Coach for this team is Harry Tsioukanous, who played second division football in Greece.

'ACKA' ON THE JOB

IF experience as a player and coach counts for anything, Nepean Under 16 Youth League team have the right man in Stan Ackerly.

Before coming to Australia, Stan played with the Mighty Reds, Manchester United, and Oldham Athletic.

He had nine years with Apia, forming a great rear combination with George Keith and the same pair were together in the Australian national team.

Stan was capped 28 times for Australia.

Stan Ackerley played a large part in the formation of Blacktown City, having coached Toongabbie for five years, before their eventual name-change.

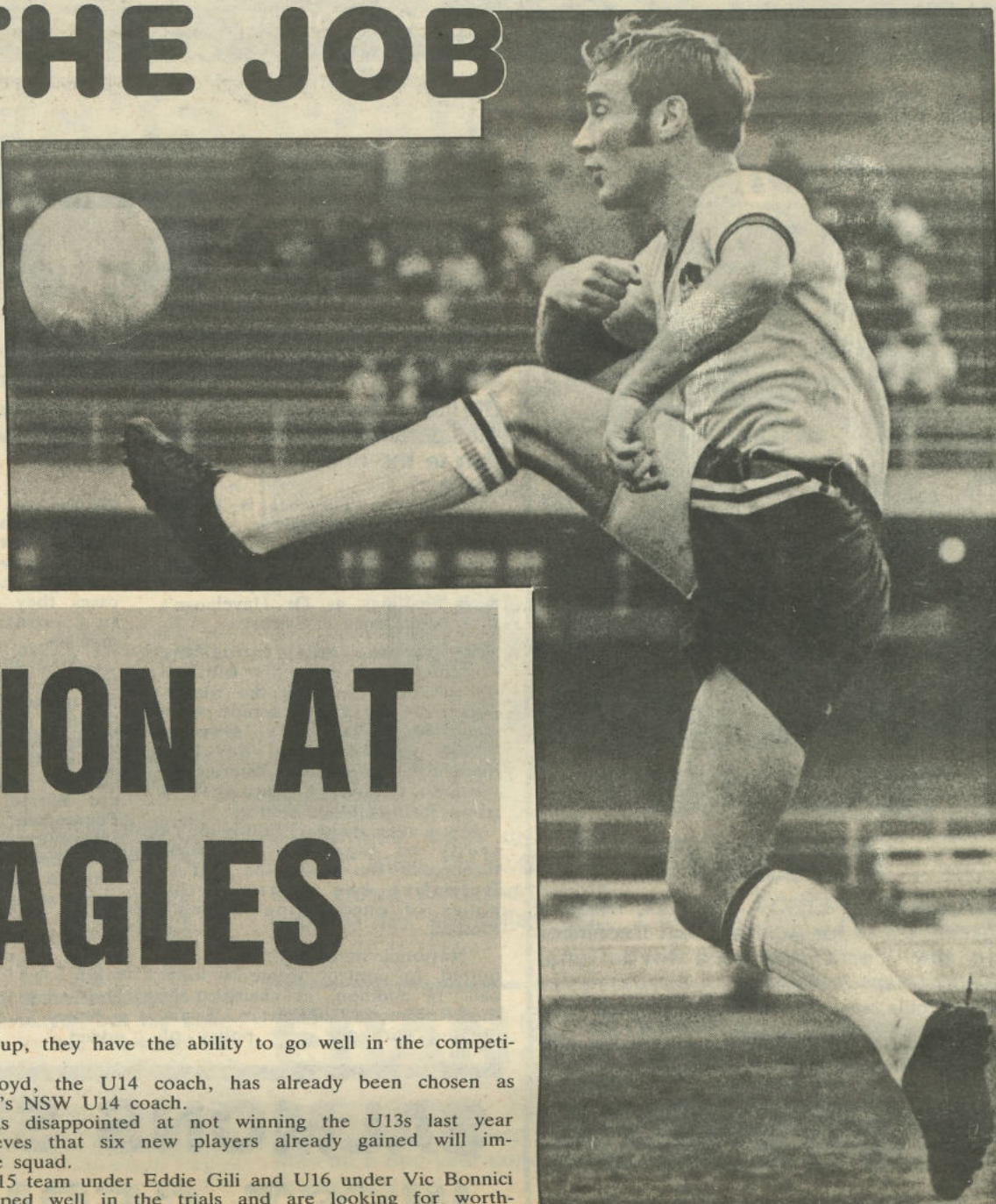
He also had a period as coach of Penrith United.

With youth teams, his only experience as coach has been with the Nepean Under 14 team in 1982, when they were runners-up to Western Branch in the State Championship.

Holding a coaching certificate, Stan is also very keen on fitness and for a number of years was trainer with the Penrith rugby league team.

He is now trainer with National League team Penrith City and was recently in England looking at new coaching methods.

— George Churchward



STAN ACKERLEY in his playing days.

CO-OPERATION AT MELITA EAGLES

PARRAMATTA MELITA EAGLES senior coach Mick Jones has arranged for at least two boys from the U15 or U16 Youth squads to train with the club's third grade squad each week.

And whenever possible his aim is to have first team players take some of the youngsters for training as well.

Junior club official Bob Harris reports that there is plenty of determination to lift the club from Group B to A in 1986.

Although the U13 team made a slow start in the Mini

Ampol Cup, they have the ability to go well in the competition.

Ian Lloyd, the U14 coach, has already been chosen as next year's NSW U14 coach.

He was disappointed at not winning the U13s last year but believes that six new players already gained will improve the squad.

The U15 team under Eddie Gili and U16 under Vic Bonnici have shaped well in the trials and are looking for worthwhile results over the year.

CLOSING DATES EXTENDED FOR AMATEUR CUPS

CLOSING dates for various cup competitions conducted by the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation have been extended.

Clubs now have until April 12 to provide their entries for the NSW Amateur, Under 21 Robertson and the State Cups to competition organiser Bill Cullinan, 1 Boree St, Eastwood, NSW 2122.

The NSW Amateur Cup has been re-named the "Australloy Insurance Amateur Cup" following receipt of a \$2,500 sponsorship from this insurance broking group.

The winner will receive \$1,000 and the runner-up \$500 to spend on licensed products, with the

remainder used to defray competition costs.

Entries for the Centenary Treloar Under 12 Cup officially closed on March 31.

Indications are that over 30 teams will compete in this popular series.

Matches will be played at the main Punchbowl Park oval and one outer ground during the first week of the May school holidays.

Treloar (Aust) Sporting Equipment Pty Ltd will sponsor the competition to the extent of approximately \$2,500.

ANASTASI HELPS COUNTRY

BY FRANK FINLAY

SUPER-KEEN Tony Anastasi has been appointed coach of the NSW Country Under 15 team for the coming season.

It is just another step on the coaching ladder for Tony, but it is one from which the boys that play for him will profit.

Tony, 25, was born in Egypt of Italian descent and educated in Australia.

Tony's wife Rose is a great supporter, and they have one child.

His guiding rules are that "a healthy body, a sound mind and discipline are the three most important factors and the necessities in soccer."

He speaks several languages and is known as "Ambassadore" by his friends.

As a player he played through the juniors and for Christian Brothers High School and through the grades for Apia Leichhardt.

His aptitude for coaching is little short of phenomenal and he expects to complete his Level 3 coaching certificate this year.

Tony holds certificates in sports training, sports medicine and physical education teaching. Last year in Manchester he completed his English coaching certificate course.

He was assistant to Dom Kapetanovic at Marconi and Tommy Docherty at Sydney Olympic and in 1984 he had the Bankstown State League team.

Junior coaching has also been his forte and in 1983 he handled the Bankstown Under 13 team.

That year he was also trainer of the NSW Under 16 team in Melbourne.

This year he will be NSW director of coaching Alan Vest's assistant with the NSW Under 18 and the 16 teams in Canberra and Melbourne.

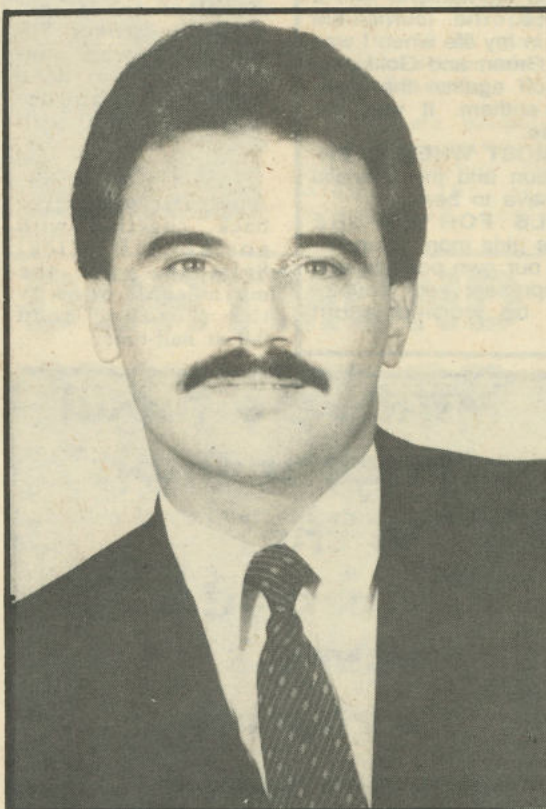
Bankstown Coaching Academy have appointed him a "master coach".

In the business world, Tony is manager of an Ashfield Fitness Centre.

If any of his boys get out of line this year they had better watch out.

Tony Anastasi has been a sports instructor for the NSW Department of Corrective Services since 1980.

Anyone who is too smart might find himself behind bars!



TONY ANASTASI: NSW Country U15 coach.

Prizemoney for assn juniors

A \$2,500 sponsorship will this year be divided up between the leading association representative teams in the Sydney Under 11 and 12 years Metropolitan Championships.

The funds will come from insurance brokers Cook Raven and Loader, who are involved in the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation's personal accident insurance scheme.

The winning association in each grade will receive \$750 and the runners up \$250. The remaining \$500 will purchase trophies.

Prizemoney is to be spent with companies licensed to supply football gear to Amateur Federation members.

Underwriter for the insurance scheme, which commenced last season, is the National Insurance Co of New Zealand Ltd, the biggest sports injury firm operating in Australia.

The company has indicated that it will help to sponsor the Australian Under 13 Championships, which take place in Sydney in August.



International Profile



MARGARET PETROV

MARGARET PETROV, aged 24, made a dream debut for Australia last December in the World Women's Invitational Tournament in Taiwan.

Australia's coach, Jim Selby, selected Margaret to wear the Green and Gold for the first time against the United States, a match that proved to be a physical encounter.

But not lacking confidence, little Margaret made a great debut for Australia at right midfield, as she through herself into tackles against opponents much taller and heavier than herself. Her recovery-rate was first-class.

This little midfielder has all the qualities to become a permanent member of future national squads. Margaret has discipline, good nature, courage, pace, constructive and a very strong will to win.

BIRTHDATE: October 4, 1960.

BIRTHPLACE: Sydney.

HEIGHT: 5'3".

PLAYING POSITIONS: Midfielder.

OCCUPATION: Secretary with the SRA.

CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Forest, Killarney Heights.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Light rock.

FAVOURITE FILM STARS: Mel Gibson, Paul Newman.

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Cindy Heydon, Julie Dolan and Frank Farina.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS: West German No 2, Anne Knupp, Kenny Dalglish, Glenn Hoddle.

WHAT IMPRESSED YOU MOST AT THE WORLD TOURNAMENT IN TAIWAN: "The overall organisation by the Taiwanese and the quality of the players and teams from other countries. It was a fabulous tournament, with a high degree of excellence. The tournament provided the best moment in my life when I was standing in my Australian Green and Gold strip before the match kicked off against the USA, listening to our national anthem. It was the proudest moment of my life."

WHAT DO YOU HATE MOST WHEN OVERSEAS: "The bad preparation and the financial strain of travel costs we have to bear."

ADVICE TO OFFICIALS FOR FUTURE TOURS: "Try and help the girls more financially. We have to fork out of our own pockets and when you go away to represent your country you shouldn't have to be worried about money."

MRS TUESCHER ON THE JOB

BEHIND every successful man there is a woman, they say, and in the sports sense FIFA president Dr Joao Havelange is no exception to the rule.

Mrs Liane Tuescher is FIFA's special projects officer. As Dr Havelange speaks Portuguese, French and Spanish but not English, she acts as interpreter at such meetings as Dr Havelange's press conference in Sydney.

By far the most interesting statement on women's football on the world front at the conference was by FIFA senior vice-president Harry H. Cavan, whose technical and development role covers the fostering of women's soccer amongst a whole host of other matters.

Mr Cavan said: "Following a study of women's football throughout the world the (FIFA) Executive has approved the policy of encouraging women's football."

"National associations are required to control women's football. In addition, as chairman of the Referees' Committee, I am pleased with the new policy of

complete non-discrimination against women as referees.

"We expect to see more women covered by referees' instruction courses and in many cases they will be very valuable in controlling women's matches."

"Also in the case of school-teachers, they can further help the interests of the game by controlling schools matches and so helping to promote the game."

Mr Cavan complimented Chinese Taipei on the success of the World Women's Invitation Tournament held late last year.

He foresees more growth in the acceptance of the tournament in future, but there is delay in extending it to its fullest.

"We have the World Cup, Olympic Tournament, World Youth Cup and the new World Under 16 Tournament on our plate and they are proving quite a heavy load at the moment," he added.

SALMONS STOPS WEST GERMANY

AUSTRALIA's third match in the World Women's Invitational Tournament in Taiwan was against twice world champions, West Germany.

Coach Jim Selby elected to stick to the same line-up that paid dividends against the United States.

The first half, as expected, saw West Germany control play, as Australia's midfielders, Susan Monteath and Margaret Petrov, tried in vain to win supremacy in the middle.

The Germans were all class in attack, especially striker Silvia Neid, who constantly penetrated the Australian defence with deft ball skills.

Joanne Millman, Australia's centre-back, together with goalkeeper Vicki Salmons, were the main reasons why the scoreline read 0-0 at half-time.



SILVIA NEID, the classy German striker.

Joanne executed three goal-saving tackles on German strikers in this half, whilst Vicki pulled off two glorious saves.

But the second half saw West Germany rip Australia to pieces and Salmons was called on to make no less than seven superb saves to deny the Germans a goal in the match.

In fact, the match could easily have been labelled "Vicki versus West Germany". That was how one side it was.

Midway through the second half, Selby brought on Kris-

ten Theile to replace Victoria's Jane Oakley.

Kristen, normally a full-back for Australia, was pushed into the midfield where she added steel and bite with her tough, no-nonsense tackling, to take some of the pressure off her goalkeeper.

Time after time, Vicki made some magnificent saves from strong German shots that bombarded her goals, to win the admiration of the crowd at Taipei's Municipal Stadium.

Australia had offered very little in the way of attack, and again failed to supply width up-front to stretch the enemy's defence. In fact, the Australian strikers, Oakley, Renaye Iserief and Leigh Wardell, never managed a shot at the West German goal.

Salmons and Theile starred for Australia as they battled in keeping Germany out to earn our country a very generous scoreless draw against the eventual champions, West Germany.

AUSTRALIA: Salmons; Langlaar, J. Millman, Van Bruinessen, K. Millman; Petrov (Singleton), Dolan, Monteath; Wardell, Iserief, Oakley (Theile).

International Profile



VICKI SALMONS

VICKI SALMONS, aged 24, has developed into a first-class international goalkeeper in the past two years.

This has understandably gravitated much publicity her way ... but the girl from Killarney is a quiet, reserved young lady who dislikes the attention.

However, we're sure our readers want to know more about the attractive lass who keeps goal for the Australian women's team with an ever-increasingly efficient technique.

In Taiwan, Vicki proved to be the world tournament's most consistent goalkeeper.

Against world champions West Germany, Australia was under continual siege. The Germans bombarded the Australian goal and in the second half made no fewer than six direct hits at the target.

Yet time after time Vicki blocked the Germans with an absolutely magnificent display of goalkeeping.

It was due entirely to Vicki Salmons that Australia managed to hold the highly efficient West Germany side to a scoreless draw, giving a performance that Vicki's idol, Peter Shilton, would have been proud of.

BIRTHDATE: October 20, 1960.

BIRTHPLACE: Sydney.

HEIGHT: 5'5".

PLAYING POSITIONS: Goalkeeper.

OCCUPATION: Clerk with E.H.O'Brien.

CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Killarney Heights, Forest.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Folk, Carol King.

FAVOURITE FILM STARS: Lee Remick, Kathryn Hepburn, Sid Poitier.

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Susan Monteath, Julie Dolan, Jimmy Patikas.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS: Peter Shilton.

WHAT IMPRESSED YOU MOST AT THE WORLD TOURNAMENT IN TAIWAN? "The high standard of both Taiwanese teams, the spectacular Opening Ceremony and the overall organisation."

WHAT DO YOU HATE MOST WHEN OVERSEAS? "Mainly the food when we are abroad."

ADVICE TO OFFICIALS FOR FUTURE TOURS: "It is imperative that national teams are prepared with a few sessions in camp before departure. Better organisation."



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BLAST FROM BECKENBAUER

FRANZ BECKENBAUER has hit back at his critics who constantly complain that Beckenbauer's West German international team plays dull football.

"In Portugal we beat one of Europe's best sides and we now have six points from three World Cup elimination games," said Beckenbauer.

"Two of the three matches were away from home. How bad is that?"

"I was shocked when I took over the team from Jupp Derwall. I thought it was a team for the deaf and dumb. The players were too quiet, too nice and lacking backbone."

"I want confident players, men with opinions and the courage to voice them — that's the German team of the future."

"Together we will make steady progress, hopefully all the way to Mexico," added Kaiser Franz.

LEFT: FRANZ BECKENBAUER

JUNIOR NAMED BRAZIL BEST

JUNIOR (pictured right), sometimes not rated as highly as Zico or Falcao by world soccer students, is the top Brazilian player in the eyes of the Sao Paulo press.

The full-back, who plays midfield in Italy for Torino, was voted Brazil's "Player of the Year".

What's more, he won the poll easily.



JAPAN SACKS OZAKI

KAZUO OZAKI is probably Japan's best player, but his country will not select him for a vital World Cup match against North Korea.

Ozaki, who has represented Japan 36 times, is now playing for Arminia Bielefeld in West Germany as a professional.

And because he has shed his amateur status, the 24-year-old Ozaki is not wanted as a member of Japan's squad.



Million dollar football match

WHEN Inter Milan drew 2-2 with AC Milan, the 80,000 San Siro crowd produced record receipts for an Italian club game.

Gate-takings were almost \$1,000,000.

It has cost a fortune for Italian clubs to buy the best players in the world this season but most of the cash outlay has come flowing back through the turnstiles.

FRANS IS HAPPY

FRANS THIJSEN, the Dutch ace who starred with Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest in the English First Division, is now on a one-year contract with unfashionable Netherlands side Fortuna Sittard.

But Frans has no desire to move up in class.

"I want to finish my career with this team and hope they offer me a new contract for next season," he said.

Thijssen was one of the very few foreign players to be awarded the top honour in English football — "Player

of the Year" on the Writers Association votes of the Football in 1981.

HARALD GETS THE BOOT?

WEST GERMANY's international goalkeeper Harald Schumacher is staying with FC Cologne, much to the relief of his many fans.

Schumacher looked like being booted out — because of a row over his boots!

The Cologne team has a contract with Puma to supply boots to all its players, but Schumacher is an Adidas man.

The Puma people, however, made a generous gesture by allowing the international goal-

keeper to carry on with his Adidas footwear.

So Schumacher (31) has signed a new three-year contract with his club.

□ □ □

FRENCH club Nantes paid Sao Paulo \$500,000 to buy centre-forward Careca, yet another story of top Brazilian talent settling in Europe.

□ □ □

LIVERPOOL are ready to fly to South America to grab a huge fee.

The player is Miguel Islas and he plays for the Estudiantes club in Argentina.

Miguel is only 19 but his performances earn him regular rave reviews which have even reached as far as Merseyside.

The last time Liverpool wanted a goalkeeper, they went to North America to sign Bruce Grobbelaar, who is Zambian by birth!



FRANS THIJSEN

DORTMUND MAY DROP

WEST GERMANY'S Bundesliga has been going for 21 years and, during that time, Borussia Dortmund has never been relegated.

But there has to be a first time for everything and it seems 1985 could be the year of the big drop for Dortmund.

Coach Horst Franz was sacked and there has been a glut of applicants for the job.

Whoever is appointed, he should not anticipate earning any long-service leave. In 21 years, Borussia Dortmund has had no fewer than 25 coaches.

MUHREN'S A REAL MATE

DID you hear about the Dutchman who helped the Dane in Manchester?

If that all sounds too confusing, let's explain.

The Dane is Jesper Olsen, who, after a brilliant start to his career with Manchester United, went off the boil in mid-season.

Another United import, Arnold Muhren, decided to back Olsen to the hilt with the following words of encouragement:

"Some people say you won't stand up to English football physically but don't listen to them. I am not a physical player but I adapted all right."

"You are unlucky because, when you arrived at Old Trafford, people compared you with George Best and that was unfair."

"People say your style isn't suitable for English pitches."

Again, don't listen to them.

"You have the ability to succeed in

English football — and I know you will."

All of which suggests that Arnold

Muhren, a foreigner in a strange land, is a great team-mate and colleague.



JESPER OLSEN is tackled in a match for Manchester United.

UK Scene

CLOSE RACE

CHAMPIONSHIP-chasing managers Howard Kendall of Everton and Peter Shreeves of Spurs agree on one thing ... the First Division title will not be settled until the end of the season.

Kendall said: "It is building up to a tremendous finale, perhaps the most exciting race for years and it won't be decided until May."

Shreeves reckons: "There are half-a-dozen teams with a chance because Manchester United are playing well and coming good at the right time and even Liverpool cannot be ruled out."

WRIGHT LOOKS GOOD

TOMMY WRIGHT is one of the best young players produced by Leeds United for years and at 19, faces a great future.

His ability has impressed former Leeds and Ireland star Johnny Giles, who made an offer for the youngster to move to West Brom.

Leeds manager Eddie Gray will fight hard to retain Wright, who scored his first hat-trick for Leeds against Notts County recently.



TOMMY WRIGHT on the ball for Leeds.



DENNIS MORTIMER

PLAYER CITES PLAYER

IN a bid to clean up the game, Dennis Mortimer of Aston Villa has privately reported another player to the Football Association.

After an incident in the Sheffield United — Barnsley match, when Mortimer was on loan to United, he needed six stitches in a badly cut lip.

Mortimer claims Roger Wyde was responsible but Wyde insists: "The things Mortimer is saying are silly and without foundation."

But Mortimer's view is: "When you are flattened by an elbow in the face when the ball is not there, something has to be done."

"It is basically a case of assault. When you are assaulted walking down the street, you go to court and this is what I am doing."

"I am trying to clean up football by getting someone punished."

DAVENPORT GETS NOD

PETER DAVENPORT, of Nottingham Forest, has made it as a member of England's international squad.

DAVENPORT, covered by Forest who played for a shipyard side.

He had always hoped to play on

Merseyside because that is his home, but he recently signed a new contract with Forest. Everton and Liverpool are wasting their time if they still hope to lure Davenport back to the north-west.

Davenport gets his England call-up because of injuries to Tony Woodcock and Trevor Francis.



PETER DAVENPORT: new contract.

LOU LOSES HIS COAT

LOU MACARI, Swindon Town manager, offered his \$250 sheepskin coat to Swindon's "man of the match" if the team equalled a record club run of nine home wins in succession by beating Bury.

Bury were duly beaten and Swindon defender Peter

Coyne now wears the boss' expensive sheepskin.

"You could say I was fleeced," said Macari, "but Peter had his best match of the season and Swindon equalled a record which has stood for 60 years."

Applicant barred!

PRESTON NORTH END, once among England's soccer giants, have received 50 applications for their vacant managerial job ... even though they are battling to stay out of the Fourth Division.

Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Alan Kelly quit as manager months ago.

One of the applications came from a prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs jail who asked Preston to keep the job open until he could get out!

IN BRIEF

PORTSMOUTH manager Alan Ball has been criticised for selling leading scorer Alan Biley to Brighton for \$60,000.

Ball doesn't think the deal with kill his team's promotion hopes and feels there is no need to get a replacement forward.

But Portsmouth have asked Arsenal if Paul Mariner would be available.

□ □ □

JUSTIN FASHANU asked permission to miss Notts County's match against Cardiff City — because he doesn't agree with playing on a Sunday.

When the game was switched to the Sunday, Fashanu said: "It goes against my Christian beliefs to play even though I realise this is an important match for Notts."

Fashanu HAS played twice before on Sundays. In each game, he was sent off by the referee!



LOU MACARI

MILLWALL OUTCASTS

LUTON TOWN, whose ground was semi-wrecked by Millwall hooligan fans who also inflicted terrible damage on the town itself, say they are not prepared to play Millwall again.

Several other clubs have also applied to have matches against Millwall postponed.

But Millwall's chief executive Tony Shaw claims the thugs will have won if any matches are cancelled.

"If we stop playing football, we might as well all pack in and let the hooligans take over," said Shaw.

WOLVES WOES

GEOFF PALMER, former defender with Wolves, has slapped a writ on the club claiming he is owed \$12,000 loyalty payment for 10 years service.

Palmer now plays for Burnley and was due the money last June.

He agreed to wait until Christmas to help out the struggling club but says he is tired now of broken promises.

Wolves, battling against relegation and with crowds down to a miserable 6,000, say Palmer will be paid but they want him to wait a little longer.

SPURS WON'T BUY

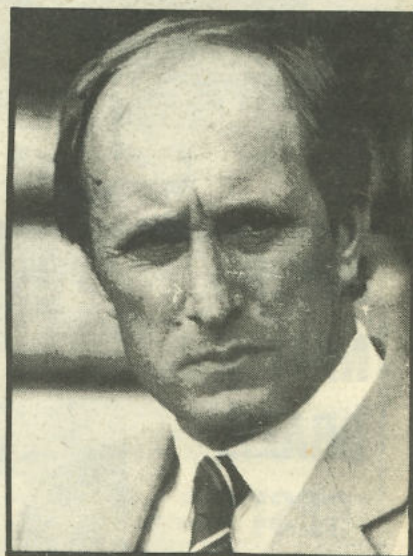
SPURS boss Peter Shreeves was advised by well-wishers to go out and buy a star striker before transfer deadline — to make certain the First Division title would go to White Hart Lane.

Shreeves resisted the temptation because he thought the arrival of another star would unsettle a successful side.

The player Spurs were expected to go after was Newcastle's Chris Waddle.

But as Shreeves said: "We have hit a level of consistency which could be affected by bringing in someone now."

"It could unsettle the lads in the side and the new player might find it tough settling in while we're chasing the championship."



PETER SHREEVES

TIMES CHANGE FOR COPPELL

STEVE COPPELL was always an ornament to football, as a winger, midfielder and anything else required, during his playing days with Manchester United.

He played 40 times for England before a cruel injury laid him low three years ago and he had to retire.

Many people insist England have never filled the vacancy.

Now life is much harder for Steve as boss of Crystal Palace, a team which is not winning and which faces huge debts.

Palace are in debt to the tune of \$2,000,000. They must find nearly \$5,000 every week just to keep pace with the interest on that debt — before spending anything on the team.

Coppell, however, has no regrets about moving to Palace.

He says: "I enjoy every part of the job. If I'm not good enough and the club want to sack me, I'll say 'fair enough' and I'll thank them for giving me my chance."

His many friends hope Coppell, still only 29, will survive in the cut-throat business of football management.

And, as Coppell reminds his few critics:

"A year ago, Howard Kendall was rumoured to be due for the sack at Everton. Now Kendall is a hot candidate to be 'Manager of the Year' for 1984-85."



STEVE COPPELL: harder job as manager.